

development forum

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Earth Summit

A new improved Development Forum

As we approach our twentieth anniversary, *Development Forum* is undergoing significant format and editorial changes designed to make it more accessible and appealing to our large and diverse international audience.

Our format change, the most dramatic undertaken since the launching of *Development Forum* in 1973, provides more space for the world's opinion makers to express their views, for the leaders of the United Nations system to discuss their strategies with development professionals, and for the field workers and their associates to speak up on behalf of the people of Third World grassroots communities who, otherwise, might continue to remain the silent poor.

With these changes, we can now better respond to the mandate placed on this publication by the General Assembly of the United Nations "to serve as a worldwide forum in which diverse opinions on issues related to economic and social development can be freely expressed".

In this issue, John Kenneth Galbraith analyzes the role of economic progress in the creation and maintenance of a durable world peace; Nafis Sadik discusses with Robert L. Schiffer the impact of urbanization in developing countries; and Maurice F. Strong provides the global outlook in preparation for United Nations conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992. Representing the international NGO community, Toshihiro Nakano describes efforts by volunteers to rehabilitate mangrove forests in Asia and the Pacific. The cover stories address the issue of disaster preparedness which is the theme of World Health Day observed on 7 April.

Development Forum is preparing a readership survey to better target and inform our audience. To finance increased circulation, we now accept paid advertisements, primarily for commercial publications and notices from the United Nations system and the NGO community that are intended for the promotion of global economic development and social progress.

We once again call on each and every subscriber to contribute \$25 a year to help finance the publication and to subsidize the subscriptions of those unable to pay.

We hope you continue to value the news and views presented in the *Forum*, and to write us expressing your opinions and sharing information. We'll accommodate and reflect your voices to the maximum extent possible. Greater reader participation and involvement will make *Development Forum* more than ever a publication of your own. That's what we are here for.

Hisashi Uno, Editor-in-Chief

On the road to Rio 1992

By Maurice F. Strong

In a little more than a year from now, in June 1992, the leaders of the nations of the world will gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for a conference which could well determine the fate of the earth. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is expected to be the largest summit ever and the most important—the first Earth Summit. At it, the highest-level par-

ticipants, including heads of state and government, will be taking decisions which will shape the prospects for the human future as we prepare to enter the new millennium.

These prospects are ominously clouded by mounting evidence that wasteful and destructive human activities are undermining the capacity of our planet to provide a secure and hospita-

ble home for all its peoples, both rich and poor. The massive oil spills in the Persian Gulf have demonstrated dramatically that the environment can be a victim of war as well as an instrument of war and of terrorism. Meanwhile, world population and human activities continue to grow, escalating the pressures on the environment and resource base and the risks of global warming, ozone

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Eastern Europe

Labour unprepared for market transition

By Marlene Nadle

As the centralized economies of Eastern Europe make the wrenching transition to free-wheeling market economies, the lack of infrastructure for either system is increasingly apparent. While investment, aid and training are being channelled to foster a new class of capitalist managers and entrepreneurs, little has been done to help the working people and trade unions survive massive unemployment and rebuild their organizations. Marlene Nadle reports.

Eastern European workers are beginning to realize that they are shouldering the heaviest burden in the transition to a market economy, and that their best chance for equalizing the pain depends on building new independent unions and reforming the remnants of the old state-controlled unions.

Unlike the intellectuals and professionals whose skills are highly marketable in the new economy, or the black marketers and the communist company managers who are almost the only citizens who have money to invest in private business, workers are employed mainly in state enterprises where wages are frozen or strictly budgeted by the government. In Poland, which is carrying out the fastest and harshest transition, workers were

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Angry Romanian trade unionists ask where their revolution has gone.

Reuters/Bettmann

As I see it

Poor vs. poor, war after war

By John Kenneth Galbraith

Nothing could be more welcome than the end of the Cold War, but there still remains the disenchanting power and self-perpetuation of military establishments. And there remains the grave and persistent dissension and conflict primarily within and between the poor countries and deprived peoples of the planet.

The powerful role of economic power and well-being (or their absence) in shaping the larger course of human history, sometimes seen as economic determinism, needs to be emphasized again at this juncture in history.

In stark and appalling contrast to the affluence of the industrial countries has been the modern history of the poor lands—the countries, regions and continents where poverty is the norm or, as in the Middle East, where wealth—mostly from oil—stands



amidst general poverty and apart from large-scale industrialization.

The difference here, I suggest, is beyond serious debate. With industrial development, whatever the ideological form, come international peace and, although sometimes rather rigorously enforced, internal tranquility. With poverty there has been discord and death. This is a correlation that cannot be escaped.

It is true that, in several regional conflicts, the rich or relatively affluent countries have associated themselves with the domestic slaughter by the poor of the poor. In this last half century minus five years, conflict and death have been the unique affliction of the poor on the poor.

It could and, indeed, should be argued that there is a problem of cause and effect. Perhaps international peace and domestic tranquility are necessary for economic well-being. Out of conflict comes poverty. Nothing so under-

Continued on page 18

Recycling in Philippines

Dear Editor,

Your timely centrespread by Sandra Cointreau and Maarten de Kadt on the recycling of household and industrial waste (*Development Forum*, January-February) referred to 7,000 dumpsite scavengers in Manila and to the establishment of cottage industries in the Philippines to recycle waste into new products.



Filipino youths scour local river for floating garbage.

You may be interested to know that in the Metro Manila town of San Juan, a quiet neighbourhood with a population of about 120,000, a group of creative women has launched a unique garbage recycling campaign in close co-operation with a number of junk shops and industrial enterprises, large and small.

Code-named *Linis-Ganda* ("Clean-Beautiful"), it involves dry waste collectors or eco-aides in green uniforms who search main streets, back alleys, rivers and canals for recyclable materials. They buy and sell used tyres, bottles, cans, plastic containers, rubber slippers, metals, wood furniture, paper products and rags to local factories.

The initiator of this programme is the Metro Manila Council of Women Balikatan Movement, Inc., a non-profit non-governmental organization. Seed money was provided by the traders to help increase the volume of transactions.

Over the past seven years, the paper and paper products collected have grown five times, the bottles three times and the cans two and a half times. The immediate result is the cleanliness of the streets and canals. The municipal administration's savings in its garbage control expenditure is another bonus. The programme helps to conserve energy and natural resources and provides savings on imports of raw materials. In addition, the households participating in this campaign earn extra money to supplement their income.

Linis-Ganda is quickly spreading to the other Metro Manila townships of Pasig, Makati and Mandaluyong, as well as to the sprawling city of Manila. From a town of 120,000 persons, the women are now helping to service nearly half a million people, processing 2,450 tons of dry waste daily.

Leonarda N. Camacho,
chairperson, Metro Manila Council of Women
Balikatan Movement, Inc., 15 C Regency Park,
207 Santolan Road, Greenhills, Quezon City,
Metro Manila, Philippines.

Valuable resource

Dear Editor,

I recently had the fortune of reading two back issues of *Development Forum* and was very impressed by the paper and

its wide coverage of United Nations-related activities. It gives a first-hand picture of the concerted efforts of the world community at bettering the livelihood of the less fortunate members of the world. The paper is a valuable source of information of highly educational importance and is a very important teaching material in the classroom. I look forward to using *Development Forum* regularly as a new subscriber.

Chogyal Tenzin,
headmaster, Pemagatshel Junior High School,
P.O. Pemagatshel, Pemagatshel, Bhutan.

fuel needs. But no substantial effort was made for reforestation.

What is needed is funding for ordinary folks working for village sensitization, including afforestation. A lot of funds are consumed by big outfits, leaving many smaller groups without financial resources. We need the advantage of international networking and resources for the educational campaign ahead.

John Alexander,
Red Building, Tailors Lane, Chawni, Nagpur
4440013 (M.S.), India.

Water racket

Dear Editor,

In some Third World countries, India in particular, drinking water drawn from underground is being commercialized and blackmarketed by middlemen and politicians to the detriment of the poor and lower middle-classes and the environment (see "Creating water markets: solution or threat for farmers?" by John Colmey in the November-December issue of *Development Forum*).

We cannot say drawing ground water unscrupulously is illegal, as there is no legislation in these countries preventing people from boring the ground and drawing water. But the point is both the ground water and the poor are being over-exploited. In several areas like Cuddalore and Saurashtra in India, for instance, available potable water has been sucked out and machines on bore wells are now pouring out saline and sea water.

Local authorities take a commission from the water supply contractors for every tanker load of water drawn from these aquifers or government land leased out to them. Exploiters are making capital out of this scarce drinking water situation. It is time that the United Nations, World Bank or UNICEF brings out a draft legislation on the use of ground water and insists that the member countries introduce and enforce the legislation to qualify for any United Nations aid for water-related development.

Felix Ryan,
D.Sc., UNEP Global 500 Laureate, president,
Ryan Foundation, 8 West Mada St., Srinagar
Colony, Madras-600015, India.

Indian pumps in Uganda

Dear Editor,

Your articles on water problems in the November-December issue prompt me to describe efforts to implement an integrated health and water programme in several districts of south-west Uganda.

Started in 1987, the project, executed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and its Canadian counterpart, CIDA, is aimed at providing more than a million people with at least 20 litres of clean water per head each day. A reduction in infant and young child mortality, and eventually in adult morbidity and mortality, is among its primary objectives.

A small but dedicated group of 11 engineers and technicians has since been engaged in the installation and repair of Indian-developed hand-pumps. On the part of beneficiaries, community mobilization teams are the mainstay of this whole operation.

A key aspect of the water supply programme is its reliance on South-South co-operation: the basic pump mechanisms are being brought in from India where they have been quite successful.

The India Mark-II deepwell hand-pump has been designed especially for heavy use and is being installed in a large number of villages around the world. It is sturdy, easy to operate and reliable, but, once it starts malfunctioning, is too difficult



Easy to operate and reliable.

for non-professionals to repair. This is where our maintenance team comes in to help the villagers.

It is a privilege to have been able to devote our time and energy to water supply programmes in developing countries. The most exciting moment is always when we have succeeded in the replacement of the old U-1 hand-pump with a new, better-functioning India Mark-II (generally known in Uganda as U-2) and managed to make the first bucketful of water to the satisfaction of the villagers.

Shaikh Naimul Islam,
an Indian-born Bangladeshi, works as a United
Nations Volunteers (UNV) pump replacement
supervisor in Kampala, Uganda.

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Confronting the challenge of tomorrow's cities—today

By Nafis Sadik



Voices for development

This section, Voices for Development, is a forum where United Nations officials and experts outside the system discuss and debate key issues of international economic and social concern. The problems of our cities have outpaced even our most imaginative planners and politicians. In these essays, Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population, and Robert Schiffer, author of The Exploding City, exchange their insights into the urban future and the urgent search for policies to confront a crisis before it becomes a global nightmare.

In less than 10 years, and for the first time in history, more than half the world's people will be living in cities. Many of these cities, especially those in the developing world which are growing at unprecedented rates, will have populations above 20 million,



far beyond anything on earth at the moment. Planning for this monumental urban growth will be one of the major challenges facing developing coun-

tries for a century to come. The time to rethink our urban strategies is now.

Since the advent of industrialization, we have looked to the cities for cultural advance and intellectual innovation, sophistication in technology and political and economic leadership. In the past, the answer to the traps of poverty and population growth was urbanization and industrial development. Most governments still rely on urbanization and industrialization as a means to generate wealth to escape from these traps.

However, in their attempts to escape from the poverty-population trap by following the time-worn path of industrialization and urbanization, developing countries may be heading straight into another. The mega-cities of the developing world are turning into parasites rather than producers, generating more problems than solutions. The cities of the industrialized countries grew slowly over the centuries and in an unplanned fashion for the most part. But the mega-cities demand some form of planning and the use of "clean technologies" for their nascent industries. Since such large urban agglomerations will affect the world's environment and economy, it is in the interests of the developed world to help. To allow this type of urban

growth and industrialization to "just happen" may well be suicidal.

Major cities in developing countries, even those which possess major industrial concentrations, are consuming resources at irrational and accelerating rates, inadvertently creating around themselves circles of devastation instead of prosperity. Rampant industrialization, pollution and destruction of agriculturally productive land slowly strangle longer-term development and skew the rational allotment of precious human resources. The magnet of urban life drains rural areas of life and the means to raise living standards, creating gross distortions in income distribution favouring metropolitan populations.

Over the past two decades we have witnessed many cities grow beyond available resources and capacities, a foretaste of what is to come, especially in the developing regions. Not only are their populations spilling over, so are the expectations and frustrations.

Key to this rapid urbanization is population growth. More than 85 countries have urban populations double the size of 10 years ago. Cities in developing countries are growing at 8.6 per cent per year compared with only 0.8 per cent in the industrialized countries. The population of a typical African capital city, for example, will grow between 60 and 80 per cent within the next 10 years. By the end of the century, the urban population of the developing world will be almost double that of the developed world.

This process has forced the neglect of rural development, and major environmental problems—loss of ground water, desertification, despoliation of the great watersheds and the tropical forests—have low priority. The combined pressures of poverty and population growth have made formerly

self-sufficient rural populations marginal, vulnerable and insecure.

Soaring needs for food, housing, water and sanitation are presenting governments with the overwhelming task of supplying basic services to urban populations. Billions are spent building urban sanitation facilities when low-cost irrigation systems in rural areas would be far more productive. Creating sufficient new jobs for their increasing urban populations is beyond the capabilities of most economies in the developing world.

New directions are needed. One will be to look afresh at the role of the city and what it offers. The search for a sustainable prosperity calls for new and safer technologies. They in turn may call for less concentration and more diffusion of populations. Furthermore, governments need to decentralize and to put more economic and infrastructure investments into the development of smaller cities to siphon off rural to capital city migration. In an era of high-speed communication, the smaller city may come into its own as a place to live and work.

Another strategy is undoubtedly a direct attack on rapid population growth rates in developing countries. Slower population growth will ease pressure on resources, slow urban growth and allow some time to develop policies of sustainable development, democratization and decentralization.

These solutions are not easy, but must be given serious attention if we hope to pass on to our children a world that is both urban and viable, that can sustain great numbers of people in peace and relative prosperity, and in harmony with the environment that supports them. ■

Nafis Sadik is the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, headquartered in New York.

Pioneers in uncharted territory

By Robert L. Schiffer

For all its urgency, the new urban world now taking shape is not getting the priority attention it demands. With some exceptions, most governments have relegated it to the back burner of global issues, and we find ourselves today in largely uncharted territory, knowing more about the planets of outer space than about the exploding cities here on earth.



There is no shortage of studies, plans and programmes, but thus far none has had much of an impact, as cities in the developing countries in particular continue their almost exponential growth both in size and in number. And the overcrowding, the congestion, the housing shortages, the rural refugees, the homeless, the pollution and waste, and the endless lines of traffic—and all the other signs and symptoms of the explosion—intensify and grow worse.

To be sure, virtually every city talks about decentralization of its industrial and commercial centres, not to

mention bloated government bureaucracies, consigning them to the outskirts or to smaller cities. But there has been little follow-through, and the increasingly false lure of jobs remains a magnet drawing the rural poor and turning them into the urban poor.

No matter what their size, the cities of the developing world literally are on a treadmill.

Sporadic government efforts to prevent rural migration by interdiction, carrot or stick simply have not been successful. Not even transferring the migrants back to the countryside or making the city off limits to them entirely has worked. Nor has removing squatters from the pavements kept them from coming back—in ever greater numbers as has been seen in New York as well as Bombay.

Meanwhile shanty towns and slums continue to expand, gobbling up green space and dehumanizing life. Mega-cities burst their boundaries and become bloated, sprawling hypercities (for lack of something better to call

them). Medium-sized and smaller cities, and towns and villages, too, find themselves no less overrun and no more able to cope with the flood of humanity inundating them.

No matter what their size, the cities of the developing world literally are on a treadmill. The faster they run, the more they do, the faster they must run, the more they must do as more and more rural refugees pour into them and already high population growth rates soar higher still. The irony here, as one recent study by the Population Crisis Committee points out, is the fact that this unprecedented growth contradicts the historical connection between city size and levels of economic development or political power.

There has been nothing like it before. The logistics and cost of providing liveable conditions for so many people in such a short space of time are staggering—even if it could be done and even if the money needed to do it could be found. Just to keep up with today's rate, according to the World Commission on Environment and Development, by the end of the century the developing world would have to increase by 65 per cent the capacity it

now has to produce and manage its urban infrastructure, services and shelter. And that would mean coming up with housing, utilities, schools, hospitals, commercial structures, transportation—and everything else the equivalent of some 1,600 functioning new "millionaire" cities (cities of at least one million) would need.

Nothing less than a miracle would be needed to accomplish all this in a Third World that in the next century will still be as poor, if not poorer, than it is today. But even if the miracle came to pass, it would only be enough to maintain present conditions. It would not take care of the billion already homeless. All the deplorable conditions that already are a way of life for the inadvertent, accidental pioneers of the new urban world would still be with us.

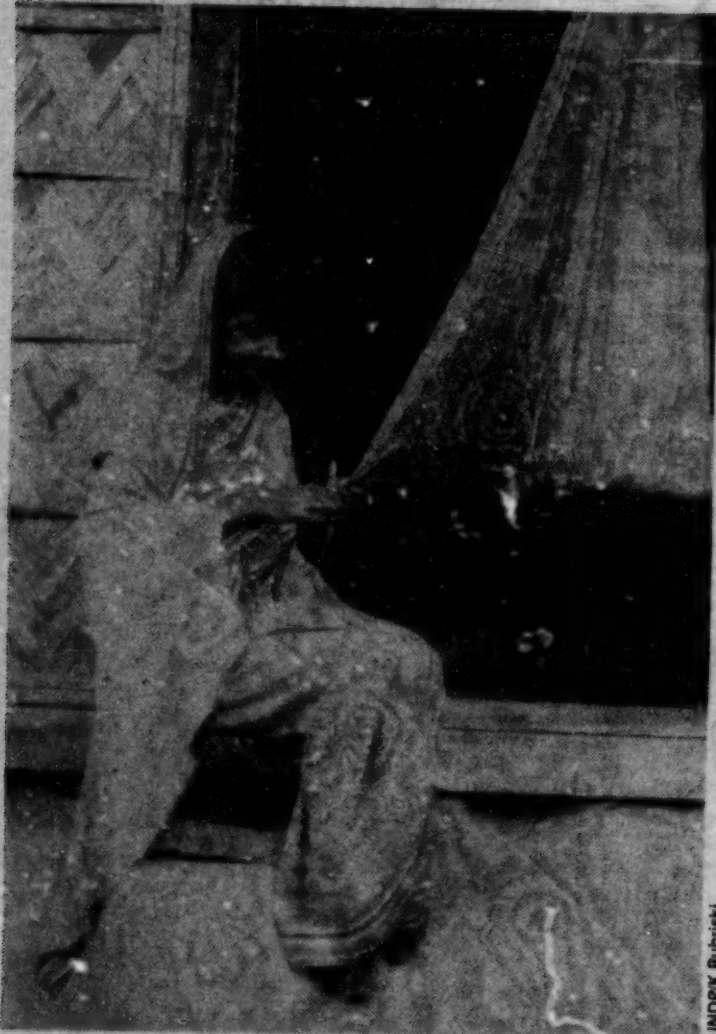
By the year 2025, nearly 4 billion such pioneers will be squeezed into the cities of the Third World, cities that by the end of the next century will be teeming with more people than are alive on the entire globe today. This is the grim reality. It is why the city and its problems can no longer be looked at through a purely

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Bangladesh

Credit schemes emphasize community of women

By Alan Rogers



Credit schemes allow women to set up small businesses, such as this fishnet repair operation in Conilla, south-east of Dhaka.

All over Bangladesh, small savings schemes have sprung up to support individuals and groups to set up small businesses, build homes or provide needed loans. Some have been fostered by non-governmental organizations, others by individuals and small groups. What is remarkable is the constantly shifting nature of the credit systems and their ability to adapt to the needs of the rural poor. In recent years, a grassroots banking system has developed quickly and creatively to meet a growing demand for credit. They are becoming one of the most effective ways for poor people to climb out of poverty and debt, and women seem to be in the forefront of the movement.

Among the best known are the Grameen banks, though as some of these banks have abandoned their original target group of the landless poor and become the domain of the middle class, many groups do not go to

do not go to them, feeling their interest rates are too high.

The basic models are rural co-operatives known as village banks which are owned, technically more than practically, by their members in small groups of five. Staff members tour the villages to assist the savings groups with their accounts.

Recently even smaller units are emerging. The landless, especially women, who are often too poor to take advantage even of these rural banks, form new, yet more informal, groups whose members meet regularly.

They each save from one taka to seven taka per week. Registers are kept and rules drawn up; group decisions are made as to who is to receive a loan from these savings and on what terms. Sometimes the money is kept in the president's or the secretary's house. When a bank is handy, a bank account is often opened in the name of the group, or the money may be passed to the sponsoring NGO for safe-keeping.

Addressing the needs of the hardcore poor, one NGO which forms groups of 25 members, recommends that each woman take one handful of rice every time she prepares a meal and set it aside. At the end of the week they sell the collected pile of rice and place the money raised in the group's savings fund.

Of course there are snags and drawbacks to the movement. In some cases, spontaneous village savings groups are

controlled by one entrepreneurial individual who alone makes a profit out of the process.

Sometimes shrewd village money-lenders, finding themselves threatened by this self-help movement, have themselves formed such savings groups, drawing on the savings of smaller groups. In fact, they might receive what amounts to an interest-free loan from the poorer savers while the money-lender lends it out at high rates of interest.

But, in general, the movement is working well, and the women are finding themselves increasingly free of the exorbitant charges of the traditional money-lenders. "We used to take loans from the money-lenders or from the landlords—this was humiliating and usually they charged high interest," one woman said. "Now we can get it from the group if we need it."

For the first time, access to funds from the savings group may be supplemented by loans at low rates of interest from the sponsoring NGO. In some cases, the groups with bank accounts also gain access to the wider credit facilities of the rural banks, so long as the group possesses enough literate persons to keep the accounts straight. They are quite clear about the profits: one woman estimated that she was benefitting to the tune of 30 takas every three months on a loan of 100 takas simply by not going to the local money-lender.

And the sums raised in this manner are often substantial enough to purchase materials to start cottage industries. One group bought two sewing machines which the members use; if they make any profit from their work, they pay one third to the group.

Last year, a group bought 10-day-old chicks from the government poultry centre are 35 paisa each; after six months, they were plump, laying birds worth 100 to 150 takas each, providing the other group members with eggs and chicks. The woman who looks after the small poultry farm with her family pays 50 per cent of the profit to the group.

Other income-generating activities have been started—cane furniture making, tailoring, mat weaving, embroidery, candle making, etc. Some have become more ambitious. In one village, a group of women has begun silver-smithing. Near the coast, the villagers make and sell, mend and use fishing nets, even buying into some of the small fishing fleets which line the shores.

In another village, some of the women have leased from the government some unused land and an irrigation tubewell and are now themselves leasing it out to various families to farm. Half the rent is paid before harvest, the rest after the harvest; the profits are used by the group for other income-generating programmes. In other areas of Bangladesh where the land is not intensively farmed, the women lease and sometimes buy small plots of land. And in at least one case, some women have opened a roadside "hotel" business, unheard of before, for such work is traditionally a man's preserve.

There are problems, and even social fallout from the new credit systems. Some of the men, especially the husbands, do not like them. NGO sponsors are seen as threatening outsiders, disrupting the old ways. And there is evidence that in a number of cases, as soon as the women begin to earn money of their own, their husbands stop giving them food money for the family, so that women's earnings in these cases only help the men. The problems can frequently escalate to violence against the women. So empowerment against the husbands and the moneylenders is now occupying the attention of some groups.

Solar projects big on ideas, short on funds

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Sandwip—A stable supply of solar-generated electricity has turned a cyclone shelter on Sandwip, one of Bangladesh's offshore islands, into a rural community recreation centre.

While most of the 300,000 inhabitants of the 376-square kilometre island are plunged into darkness after sunset, the Sharikait cyclone shelter attracts hundreds of people from the neighbourhood to watch television and listen to radio programmes.

During cyclones, beacon lights and sirens powered by solar cells help people to find the centre and provide them with light, radio and TV during the storm. During the three cyclones that hit this area since 1988, says Kazi Obaidul Awal of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), fishermen have been able to locate safe harbours because of the centre's powerful beacons.

The Sandwip solar power system, established at a cost of only \$70,000, is one of five successful experiments in alternative energy carried out over the last two years by the BAEC under the government's integrated renewable energy project.

The introduction of the solar power system in 1988 has also revolutionized health care for the inhabitants of Sandwip. Before then, diesel generators supplied the health centre with only limited electricity. Fluctuating voltage levels made it impossible to operate X-ray machines and refrigerators. Now drugs sensitive to temperature changes are safely stored and a variety of

emergency medical services can be counted on night or day.

Other solar projects are scattered around this energy-poor country. On the premises of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, near Savar, about 40 kilometres from Dhaka, an irrigation project uses a submersible, deep-well solar pump. Experimenters have installed another solar pump system to spray water in a tea garden nursery. Although the pump system is still not being used at full capacity, it is saving several man-hours of work every day.

In another project in the Tangail district, a solar power system provides light for 100 rural households. The project is designed to assess the economic viability of solar-powered lighting and its social acceptability by the user community. Small solar power systems are being used in remote hilly areas for operating telephones and radios. Large power transmission towers on waterways use solar-powered signal lights to prevent accidents.

Bangladesh has experimented with renewable energy sources since the early 1970s, but the work has suffered from the lack of a systematic energy policy. Similar experiments have been carried out by different organizations but provisions have not been made for putting results into practice.

According to Kazi Abaidul Awal, solar power systems are not cheaper than conventional electricity, but do offer a solution in remote areas not linked to the

national power grid. Bangladesh has sufficient daily average solar radiation to operate small solar power systems, and Awal adds that by using efficient storage systems, electricity supplies can be maintained for 15 consecutive sunless days.

The joint chief of the Rural and Renewable Energy Division of Bangladesh's Planning Commission says that over the past five years, only \$333,000 in funding has been available for renewable energy investments, which have included biogas plants and other fuel-efficient projects.

The sector failed to attract official support although the improved cookstoves and fuel-efficient lamps, now being used by some 110 million inhabitants of Bangladesh, were estimated to have saved the equivalent of over \$3 million in fuelwood and kerosene.

The recent success of experiments with solar cells has, however, led the Rural Electrification Board to set up 25 solar-powered systems in isolated areas. These will supply electricity for hospitals, telecommunications, fish processing and preservation units, salt production and cold storage facilities.

The fourth five-year plan, from 1991-95, envisages the distribution of more earthen cookstoves, solar cookers and hot boxes along with the establishment of more wind energy centres, biogas plants and a micro hydro-electric power station.

BANGS

Mostafa Kamal Majumder, a journalist on the Bangladesh Times, writes on development.

Alan Rogers, director of Education for Development, an NGO based in the United Kingdom, recently spent five weeks in the villages of Bangladesh making a video film for the United Nations International Literacy Year 1990.

Haiti

Rethinking a nation

By Kathie Klarreich

In February, Haitians inaugurated father Jean-Bertrand Aristide as their first democratically elected president in the nation's 186-year history. Following elections overseen by United Nations observers, this event was as uncertain and perilous as it was remarkable. But, with a great deal of luck, the government may signal the beginning of a new era in this tormented Caribbean country, overseeing the reform and democratization of the entire administrative structure from the ground up. It will be a difficult process requiring extensive United Nations and NGO involvement and a highly creative approach to problem-solving, drawing on the successes of grassroots organizing.

Port-au-Prince—Democracy is a new concept in Haitian politics. Since the 29-year Duvalier dictatorship fell five years ago, the government has changed hands an equal number of times.

This constant political roller-coaster, along with years of repression, has retarded Haiti's social development, drained the national coffers and left the country running on empty, with the worst social and economic indicators in the western hemisphere.

From another perspective, Paul-Marc Henry, special representative of the United Nations secretary-general to Haiti, explained during a recent interview in the capital: "Haiti is a country which has received one of the largest volumes of international assistance in the world without any noticeable improvement." Henry, visiting to help the Haitian government devise a plan of action for their aid programme, expects a great deal more co-operation from the new government.

Together with the Haitian authorities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is studying technical assistance plans in the face of a collapsing economy and unstable social conditions. Now, emphasis will be placed on decentralization, primary education, youth, women in development, justice and reorganizing public administrations.

'Before, our heads were so buried we couldn't see out of the hole. But we're in motion now, and we're moving towards change.'

"We are working with the designated authorities to define upcoming assistance," said Reinhart Helmke, UNDP's resident representative in Haiti. "The difficulty is not in implementing a programme, but democratizing the process of co-operation and negotiation as much as possible. Without democracy, there can be no progress."

"In 1986 we began an emergency recovery programme," said Phillipe Zysset, assistant resident representative. "We were able to successfully launch the programme, but were limited because we didn't have a suitable marriage partner. We were mostly working with a military state. Now we are facing a similar operation but with a government that was elected by 70 per cent of the people."

Because the ever-changing Haitian governments were unable to manage the programme, they requested that UNDP switch to a case-by-case plan. Those projects that have survived have been seriously impeded by weak institutional structures and corrupt handling of public funds. By working with grassroots organizations and other forms of assistance, UNDP has been able to develop a system of accountability.

While UNDP has the constraint, in Haiti's case, of working with the government, even non-governmental agencies have been affected by massive state corruption, mismanagement of funds, and a fragile infrastructure. According to one director of an umbrella agency for NGOs, the NGOs' biggest problem is working with groups that are socially and economically weak.

The Institute of Technology and Adult Education (ITECA) focuses on Haiti's peasants, who are long accustomed to surveillance and harassment by the "chefs du section" or rural sheriffs.



With a government of their own, Haitians are starting to rebuild their devastated economy.

ITECA offers courses ranging from soil conservation to personal hygiene and nutrition. Scholarships are reserved for groups so that a group member who participates in ITECA seminars can return to the community and share the experience.

Recently ITECA decided to halt its courses on water management for lack of funds. Director Claudette Werleigh, aware of the danger of education raising expectations that cannot be met, said, "We need another way to teach. We have to create infrastructures that utilize available materials. Everything has been done backwards. We need to build our own system."

One way to bridge the gap between programmes on paper and the reality of rural life has been by working with "groupement". Based on the traditional agricultural "konbits" that come together by necessity to work the land, groupement start out as informal neighbourhood groups which meet to take care of community projects. They are

usually associated with a popular priest or strong peasant leader.

If these groups continue to evolve, they join with other associations. Groupement are different from co-operatives in that they are not recognized by the state. More often they are grassroots oriented, and less interested in making a profit than in creating a fair structure.

Catholic Relief Services has been successfully building long-term relationships with such intermediary groups. They also use the system of Ti Legliz, the grassroots arm of the Catholic Church, to bridge communication between peasants on the local and national levels.

UNDP, trying to capitalize on the success of grassroots groups, is restructuring its rehabilitation projects to correspond with people's needs. Rather than sponsor massive road-building projects which will employ people all over the country for a few months, it prefers to promote permanent jobs in the home environment, using the infrastructures that are already in place.

"The social system here is catastrophic," said an economist who has been advising the Aristide government. "There have been no models which correspond to the present conditions in Haiti. What we need to

ministrations, which according to one Western diplomat "is nothing more than a series of cesspools". There are an estimated 42,000 government employees, many of whom contribute, directly or otherwise, to the public deficit. Public enterprises, which at one time contributed to the economy, are now subsidized by the central bank. There is no money to pay for the salaries of hundreds of government employees.

UNDP is well aware of the economic problems and the need for decentralization. It intends to use a more "national language" in terms of planning and setting priorities. One of these priorities is protecting the environment, particularly addressing

The difficulty is to democratize the process of co-operation and negotiation as much as possible. Without democracy, there can be no progress.

problems of deforestation, while incorporating grassroots structures, appropriate technology and decentralization.

"Haiti needs to rely on its own resources, grow its own food," Zysset said. "At present, land is still available, but production is so low that it can collapse with any competition. If we can't reverse this cycle in the next 10 years, environmentally the game is lost."

The United Nations, along with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the new government and international institutions represented in Haiti, have plans for fiscal reform, public investment and restoration of the budget, in line with the new government's priorities. They also plan to establish rules for controlling disbursements.

The United States, which cancelled all aid to the Haitian government after the 1987 election day blood-bath, continued to channel funds to the private sector, mainly through its Agency for International Development. The agency has supported programmes run by NGOs like the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Catholic Relief Services. Because of the success of recent democratic elections, the United States congress has approved \$82 million in aid for the current fiscal year.

The Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme have promised 1,400 tons of food aid, while Taiwan is providing \$6 million for public works projects and the same amount for military assistance. The European Community has pledged \$144 million and Germany \$36 million. France and Spain have pledged substantial aid, while Mexico and Venezuela are also considering substantial oil concessions for the new government.

With strong government and popular support for reforms, the combined assistance of NGOs and United Nations programmes, if properly co-ordinated and managed, could provide the momentum to give Haiti a fresh start. ■

Kathie Klarreich is a freelance journalist based in Port-au-Prince.

Emergencies

Urgent African appeals going unheeded

As world attention is transfixed by events in the Persian Gulf, an eerie silence has descended over the calamities that threaten more Africans than ever before with mass starvation.

A deadly and persistent combination of civil war and drought now plague the continent from Ethiopia to Sudan, Mozambique and Liberia. It has rendered at least 29 million Africans dependent on food assistance for their survival, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).



Food is running out for 29 million Africans.

Yet few seem to be heeding the loud warning signals of an impending disaster of perhaps unprecedented proportions.

James Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said it would be "obscene" if the world remained oblivious of the impending crisis in Africa, where more than 20 million Africans are likely either to die of famine or suffer the grave consequences of food shortages this year. He described the situation as a "major crisis needing a major response".

The volume of emergency food relief needed now in Africa is staggering, three times what it was only two years ago. WFP estimates that more than three-quarters of worldwide demand for food emergency aid this year is concentrated in sub-Saharan African countries. This means hungry Africans will need at least four million tons of food in 1991.

Indeed, the need is so overwhelming, says WFP's chief of Relief Service Operations, Broniek Szynalski, that there is a danger the needs will not be met. "The biggest question this year is whether we're going to get enough food," he says.

Non-governmental organizations such as Oxfam, based in Britain, are taking steps to dramatize the situation to governments in Europe and North America. "We are extremely disturbed," says Tony Vaux, Oxfam's emergencies co-ordinator. "We do not know why governments are not pledging enough food to international relief efforts."

Vaux fears that emergency food pipelines will run dry in March, resulting in an escalating danger of mass starvation in several countries in April and May. According to Oxfam, stocks of food in Ethiopia are only sufficient to last until mid-March and no new shipments are in sight.

According to WFP, unless food starts moving into Sudan within the next six to eight weeks, deaths from starvation on a large scale are likely.

Hoping to galvanize public concern, Oxfam has decided to charter a ship to ferry 4,000 tons of grain to the two drought-stricken African countries.

"We have been urging governments to take action on this crisis since last October," commented Brendan Gormley, head of Oxfam's Africa programme.

Oxfam-Belgique has issued similar appeals to the Belgian government and the European Community (EC) to increase food aid and prevent starvation in Africa.

Donor countries are increasingly prone to respond only to appeals from individual governments, ignoring the vaster dimension of the problem. One measurement of what sometimes seems to be indifference is that the fund used to

finance WFP global emergency operations, the International Emergency Food Reserve, which ran dry last September.

The plight of Angola—with a population of 1.9 million victims of drought or war in dire need of food aid—is emblematic. An emergency operation was started there by WFP, which advanced money to move in staff and equipment. So far less than one-fifth of the cost of the operation has been pledged by donors. Unless more funds are forthcoming, food aid there will have to be halted.

In Sudan, which has been hit by a catastrophic drought, only a fraction of the 1.2 million tons of food needed to stave off mass starvation this year has been pledged. None of the food can be delivered until equivalent cash pledges are made for logistics and deliveries. In Sudan, transportation can cost more than the food itself.

Szynalski is careful, however, to point out that global resources are limited and that blame cannot be laid alone at the door of the donors. "It's very difficult to make a judgement," he says.

Responsibility should be shared equally, he asserts. Some donors are more eager to give to a specific cause because of the implicit control when they give directly. Some recipient governments, too, are less than fully co-operative in assisting in the distribution of food.

In Angola, the problems are also political. An agreement between international aid organizations, the rebels and the Angolan government for the safe passage of aid convoys has broken down, further complicating food assistance.

Meanwhile, many donor countries traditionally relied upon for contributions are increasingly devoting resources to the reconstruction of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. But, as food aid officials tirelessly point out, while not just a few of these East bloc countries have food surpluses, the eight million refugee victims in Africa simply will not eat without the

generosity of the international community.

Forecasts for this year drawn up by WFP show that 1991 is likely to eclipse the great Sahelian drought of the mid-1980s in terms of the current colossal demand for food in country after country.

Karen Wolman

Iraqis face further losses in health crisis

UNICEF—The grim consequences of major epidemics in Iraq may far exceed death and casualty rates from the bombardment and fighting, according to a team from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that visited Iraq at the end of February. The team, which brought 54 tons of medical and humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi capital, was authorized by the United Nations secretary-general to deliver emergency medical aid to children and mothers and to ascertain essential health needs.

Upon receipt of the report, the secretary-general met with the heads of several United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and urged immediate United Nations action on the situation saying "every effort be made to avoid further human suffering and to prevent catastrophes, especially in the areas of health and nutrition".

The team said that the acute shortages of electricity, fuel, food and clean water, and the resulting disruption of all health and public services, have produced potentially perilous conditions for children and mothers. "If nothing is done to remedy this, a new catastrophe could beset Iraq," the report says.



A displaced Bangladeshi in Jordan waits for a ride home.

The most urgent health threat, the report says, is the onset of epidemics from cholera, typhoid, meningitis and malaria, resulting from contaminated water supplies and backed-up sewage. The whole Iraqi drinking water system was in or near collapse and diarrhoeal rates were already four times their normal level.

In addition, food rations were providing only 1,000 calories, less than half the needs of a five-year-old child, and less than one third the requirements of a pregnant woman. Use of infant milk substitutes unsuitable for babies was widely reported, as was breastfeeding failure due to stress and anxiety.

Immunization programmes have essentially stopped and the team observed 120 children at one health centre turned away for lack

of vaccines. Lack of vehicle fuel forced doctors and health workers to reduce drastically their working hours. Antenatal care, maternal and child health clinics and growth monitoring have ceased.

To limit present health threats and prevent epidemics, the team recommended immediate intervention that would include supplies of medicines and vaccines, food, clean water, fuel, equipment and spare parts to help restore health and sanitation facilities.

WHO officials said that military field hospitals in the region could provide medical supplies and that military forces in the Gulf could ease the shortage of small electrical generators and the fuel to run them.

Countering disruptions from Gulf conflict

New York—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in the process of reprogramming its financial and technical resources to meet the urgent development needs of many countries affected by the turmoil in the Persian Gulf region.

Warning that the Gulf crisis has had "a devastating impact" on human populations, national economies and the environment, the New York-based agency says that several developing countries face "serious social unrest" resulting from the sudden return of millions of expatriate workers from Kuwait and Iraq.

Mohamed Abdalla Nour, assistant UNDP administrator and director of UNDP's regional bureau for Arab states and Europe, says that countries affected by the crisis are being forced to adjust to a variety of economic problems, including declining remittances, higher energy prices, decreased net capital flows, reduced exports, serious unemployment, rising inflation and lower economic growth.

UNDP is focusing on coun-

development projects and the reduction in investment flows from Kuwait and Iraq—all of which have entailed significant economic losses and a heavy loss of foreign exchange.

Nour, whose bureau heads a UNDP Gulf task force, says the crisis poses unprecedented challenges for those in the field of human development.

"First Kuwait and now Iraq have suffered tremendous devastation. The social and economic impact on neighbouring countries is causing great human misery, and countries farther afield have been seriously affected," he pointed out.

The Gulf task force, which is based in New York, is currently working on a draft plan for UNDP action. "We hope to complete this as soon as possible, and to begin work immediately where possible with available resources," he said.

The countries affected by the crisis have been subdivided into four groups: those suffering direct destruction in human and material terms, those whose economies have been severely dislocated, those whose economies have been badly affected, and oil-importing countries facing additional foreign currency payments.

Disarmament
Economic conversion can boost employment

The prospects for converting a large slice of the defence industry to civilian production are propitious, according to a research report, *Defence Expenditure and Local Employment*, just published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The conflict between disarmament and employment, it argues, is of a short-term nature.

The social cost of turning tanks into tractors should not be as high as pessimists have predicted. The peace dividend, on the other hand, will not be all gain. There will be job losses at the outset, and they could be severe in geographical areas of defence industry concentration.

But in the long run, defence expenditure cuts and the rechanneling of resources to civilian use will have an employment-creating effect. The difference between the long-term employment effects of military and of alternative civilian expenditure is the implicit cost of national security.

The report completes six years of research into the consequences of disarmament on manpower and employment stimulated by an ILO conference resolution which deplored "the considerable waste of resources resulting from the armaments race".

Those resources are enormous. Global defence expenditure is said to average \$1.9 million a minute. An estimated 55 million people are engaged in defence-related employment.

While obvious benefits can be derived from defence spending, in the long run it has several negative effects on the economy, security considerations apart. "It has been increasingly argued that defence expenditure has no particular economic benefits that could not be achieved by other forms of public or private spending," the ILO study observes. "It is recognized as a factor reducing flexibility in enterprise behaviour... leading to resource hoarding, overskilling and

Continued on page 7

the generation of inflation."

Ample empirical evidence exists that high levels of defence spending are associated with low levels of investment.

The impact on the job market is similar. Defence spending may create considerable employment in some circumstances; its effect on mopping up unemployment in the 1930s is well remembered. But alternative forms of public and private spending may create more. Simulation studies have established that a given amount of expenditure created more jobs when invested in the civilian sector than in defence.

The research project focused

countries in 1991 than was requested by the administration of president George Bush.

In particular, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda will get significantly more than was originally intended, according to foreign aid figures submitted by the State Department in January to the United States congress.

Arguing that Africa should not be ignored at the expense of Eastern Europe, Nicaragua and Panama—major recipients last year—influential lawmakers succeeded in increasing the overall development aid figure for Africa in 1991 to \$800 million.

Economy

UNIDO predicts global recovery

After the slump of 1990, the world's economy as a whole is headed for a marginal recovery in 1991, according to *Industry and Development: Global Report 1990/91*, just published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The year should see an upturn to 3.7 per cent growth. Developing countries' economies are expected to grow by 4.1 per cent in 1991, which is slightly faster than the expected growth in industrialized nations.

Although UNIDO believes that economic and political changes in Eastern Europe will generate growth in the medium term, the short-term outlook is "not very optimistic". The far-reaching changes taking place will disrupt economic activity in the short run, reducing growth in the region to near zero during 1991.

While the 1980s have often been termed the lost decade for developing countries, the *Report* points out that many Asian countries have made substantial progress. But, to "an overwhelming majority of developing countries, especially in Africa and Latin America, the decade represented a continuous economic crisis which has exacted an enormous toll in terms of both progress promised and progress forgone," the *Report* goes on.

Many of these countries seem to be losing the self-confidence they once had in initiating and managing their own development.

What the *Report* calls "serious interregional disparities"—gaps in income, industrial capacity and technology—will widen between regions of the South as well as between North and South. A major problem lies in the current technological revolution bypassing much of the developing world, with long-term prospects for Africa and to a lesser extent for Latin America appearing bleak.

"Quite possibly," the *Report* remarks, "the 1990s may see a neglected and marginalized sub-Saharan."

Turning to Latin America, it sees as ominous the reduction of investment in human and physical capital during the 1980s. Inability to produce and export could force debtor countries to borrow more just to pay interest charges on snowballing debts.

Citing the industrial success of East and South-East Asia as an example for other areas to emulate, the *Report* emphasizes the need to upgrade industrial structure by absorbing new technology and skills for production and sales.

It warns of abundant evidence of highly polluting industries moving from North to South, particularly those producing hazardous substances. "If the current patterns of structural change in world industry should continue unchecked, environmental problems in developing countries will be likely to reach crisis proportions in the near future."

"The importance of low-waste or clean technologies," the *Report* stresses, "cannot be overemphasized in forging ahead with the industrialization process... The substantial savings experienced in material costs and labour costs are often more than sufficient to offset initial higher investment costs."

Population

44 billion condoms a year, minimum

UNFPA—If world population is to be kept at 6.26 billion by the year 2000, the number of couples using contraceptives in developing nations must rise from the present 381 million to 567 million, says the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In a study released in February, UNFPA said that to achieve the United Nations medium-variant population projection of 6.26 billion by the end of the century, fertility rates will have to fall from 3.8 to 3.3 births per woman by the year 2000.

Currently, the total world population is about 5.3 billion persons and growing at around 1.7 per cent annually. The global population growth rate has remained nearly unchanged since 1975, but it is significantly lower than the historical peak of 2.1 per cent, which occurred between 1965 and 1970.

The study notes that to meet the expected demand for contraceptives needed to reach UNFPA targets, the developing world will need annually 44 billion condoms, 8.76 billion cycles of oral pills, 633 million doses of injectable contraceptives, 310 million intrauterine devices (IUDs) and 151 million female and male sterilizations.

In the study, titled "Contraceptive requirements and demand for contraceptive commodities in developing countries", UNFPA says that the cost for this increased supply of contraceptives is estimated to rise from \$399 million in 1990 to \$627 million by the year 2000.

To help meet the demand for increased supplies of contraceptives and to lower costs, the study recommends a co-ordinated international system for procurement, and supply and support for local contraceptive production.



Nuclear

Nuclear power capacity edged up in 1990

IAEA—The net electrical generating capacity of the world's operating nuclear electricity plants edged up slightly in 1990, based on preliminary data available to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), even though the total number of operational reactors declined. At the end of 1990, the 424 nuclear electricity plants in operation worldwide had a total net capacity of 324,496 megawatts-electric (MWe), compared to 318,271 MWe for the 426 reactors listed as operational at the end of 1989.

During 1990, 10 nuclear plants were connected to electricity grids in Canada (1), France (3), India (1), Japan (2), United States (2), and USSR (1), whereas 12 reactors were shut down in France (2), Germany (5), Italy (2), Spain (1), and the United Kingdom (2). Worldwide in 1990, 28 countries were operating or building altogether 507 nuclear plants for electricity generation. Nuclear plants supplied about 17 per cent of the world's total electricity last year.

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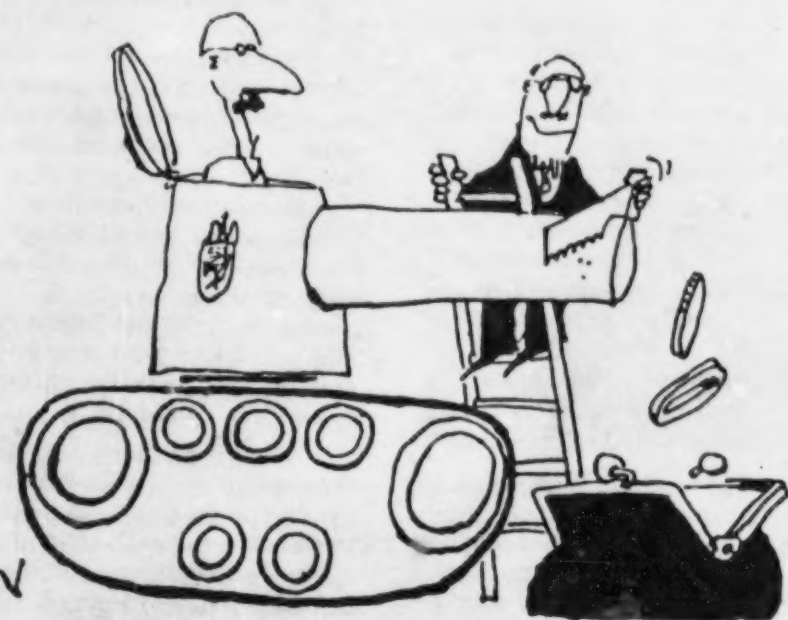
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on conversion. For the ILO, and the defence work-force, conversion should ensure that labour skills do not go to waste or remain unused for more than a brief period, and that further employment should be remunerative. This opens a wide range of issues—retraining, unemployment insurance, displacement of new job seekers, slowing the pace of change and persuading the state to break normal rules of market intervention.

This labour conversion can furthermore take place against a host of different institutional backgrounds in terms, on the one side, of state ownership of the means of production and, on the other, of state intervention in labour markets, up to and including the guarantee of employment.

Basically it is a matter of industrial restructuring, similar—if more complex in terms of policy response—to other restructuring exercises which industrialized market economy countries have undergone in recent years and which centrally planned economies are now facing. Experience of cut-backs in the "sunset" industries can be called upon in order to minimize unnecessarily negative impacts of the conversion process.

Some job losses are inevitable. If past experience is any guide, for every 100 workers displaced by defence plant closures, at least 15 would leave the labour market for retirement or other reasons, 67 would find other jobs—though many would be lower paid—within two or three years, and the remaining 18 would be stranded.

*Defence Expenditure and Local Employment, Liba Paukert and Peter Richards, Eds., available from the International Labour Office, CH 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland. ISBN 92-2-10-72-87-8 (hard cover), 92-2-10-72-88-6 (soft cover).

Assistance

US expands African aid

Washington—The United States will be giving substantially more development assistance to some 17 sub-Saharan African

While that figure is still substantially below the assistance routinely given such United States allies as Israel (\$3.5 billion) or Egypt (\$2.3 billion), the 1991 total is more than Washington has earmarked for Africa for five years.

IPS

Western aid heads East, not South

Aid from Western countries to Eastern Europe now exceeds that going to the Third World, according to a report entitled *Second World, Third World* published by the London-based pressure group, the World Development Movement.

"The East-West Cold War is over," says author Ed Mayo, "but the cleavage of rich North and poor South is still growing deeper. The economic problems of Eastern Europe are small compared to the deprivations of millions in the Third World."

Only two Eastern European countries, Romania and Albania, are poor enough to be regarded as "developing". Yet, so far, the West, including Japan, has promised aid amounting to \$26 per head to Eastern Europe as compared to \$15 per head for the Third World. Famine-hit Ethiopia only receives three-quarters of what countries such as Poland or Hungary are expected to receive in aid.

Moreover, Eastern European countries are cutting their own aid to the Third World in order to qualify for Western funds. Soviet aid to Cambodia has already been cut by a quarter, and aid to Cuba, Viet Nam and India will also be affected.

However, the report maintains that Eastern European aid to the Third World was often of dubious quality or linked to military spending.

The report calls for aid to Eastern Europe to be matched dollar for dollar by aid to the Third World. Funds should also be reserved for development education programmes in Eastern Europe.

PANOS

Child labour Despite improved legislation, children still at work

According to a new International Labour Organisation (ILO) report entitled *Still So Far to Go: Child Labour in the World Today*, the overall situation of the exploitation of children in mainstream industries around the world has improved, in part due to the efforts to protect children which culminated in 1989 with the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Major problem areas, however, remain despite better legislation.

The child rights convention has helped to increase dramatically the number of industrialized and developing countries which have adopted child labour legislation. Although some countries need to strengthen legislation on this aspect, the ILO report indicates

safely. The same goes for machinery.

More and more children are also being employed in an ever-increasing urban informal sector. They eke out a living toiling for long hours in small enterprises in towns and cities. The dangers are numerous and their protection non-existent. Children forced to carry heavy loads are injured, weakened and even deformed. Young workers making pencils breathe in hazardous slate dust that condemns them to early disability and death from lung disease. The examples are endless.

Another group of young "workers" that is increasing at a frightening rate is that of "street children". These boys and girls roam the streets availing themselves of any means of obtaining money, including hawking merchandise, shining shoes or even engaging in prostitution. Recently, this group of children has come under strong attack from police authorities, for example in Brazil and Guatemala. They are picked up, interrogated, often beaten and always intimidated. Some children have died as a direct result of their injuries at the hands of the police.



While progress against child labour in mainstream industries has been made, informal sector "employment" of children remains high and largely uncontrolled.

that "a workable legal foundation has for the most part already been laid".

Nonetheless, there remain several important areas of employment in the Third World where child labour persists and is widespread: agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic service. Since adult agricultural workers are notoriously poorly protected by labour legislation, the odds remain against proper treatment for the children they employ.

The report explains that there is increasing concern about the accident and disease rates among child agricultural workers. Controls on hazardous insecticides and herbicides are deficient and neither children nor their parents receive instruction on how to use them

Amnesty International is following this development closely and has already produced several reports which have come under criticism by the governments concerned.

If it is difficult to protect street children, then it is nearly impossible to protect those exploited as domestic servants.

Abuse and exploitation of this group of child workers is not widely publicized as it often takes place in private homes. The vast majority are girls and they are completely dependent on their employers.

The situation of these children varies: impoverished parents may place their children in the care of friends or relatives; children may be hired out for wages typically paid to the parents; or, the child may be sold into bondage for an

advance sum. Whatever the reasons, these children are often malnourished, sleep on floors and do not attend school. Sexual abuse, according to the ILO report, is said to be common.

The children employed in these sectors of the economy remain hidden from public scrutiny, which is the major problem in trying to improve the situation. In order to offer better protection to these children, the first step will be to discover and reach them. This involves the assistance of a wide group of individuals and organizations: concerned citizens, governments, the media, employers, unions and so on. They all have a role to play and the report describes the role of each group.

The report also outlines pragmatic new approaches, including the provision of education and training, and argues that the recommendations and resolutions of the international activities for children in 1990 must be turned into practical solutions. It also stresses that the gap between North and South must be reduced and the issue of Third World debt be addressed rapidly. The report goes on to say that it is unacceptable to leave children open to abuse and exploitation while pursuing anti-poverty goals. Past experience shows that "children can be effectively protected even while they and their families are poor".

Awards

WHO gold medal to French scientist

Geneva (WHO)—Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), recently awarded the Health-For-All Gold Medal to Charles Mérieux, president of the Marcel Mérieux Foundation.

For many years, the French scientist and philanthropist has played a leading role in research and distribution of vaccines and other biological products aimed at the prevention, detection and treatment of disease. Aged 84, Mérieux has devoted much of his life to the improvement of vaccines against rabies, poliomyelitis, tetanus and meningitis.

A pioneer in the distribution of highly effective products at an affordable price, Mérieux has shown that primary health care could become as much a reality for developing countries as for those in the developed world. The Mérieux Foundation constitutes an important collaborating centre with WHO in the realm of education and training in epidemiology.

Environment

Global fund promotes Third World science

Paris—Scientific establishments throughout the Third World are to benefit from a new \$1.5 billion global fund established recently to promote pollution control, energy conservation and other industrial development for the protection of the environment.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), expected to be operational by mid-1991, will be administered by the World Bank with support

from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The fund will promote Third World science by financing research, training and technology transfer to the poor countries.

GEF will provide concessional funding for investment projects and related activities in several industries including energy, insurance, transport, chemicals, agriculture, construction and tourism.

The fund's four main areas of concern are:

- Protecting the international waters vulnerable to pollution by shipping and other sources;
- Conserving energy, promoting power generation that does not contribute to global warming, reforestation and forestry management;
- Arresting the destruction of the earth's ozone layer by helping countries to make the transition from chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other destructive gases to acceptable alternatives; and
- Serving the planet's diversity of plant and animal species.

The fund has been set up in a pilot programme to enable governments and international agencies to gain "practical experience in adopting environmentally-sound technologies and in strengthening national policies and institutional frameworks to support prudent environmental management", explains Ernest Stern, the World Bank's senior vice president for finance.

GEF will enable many developing countries to participate in global programmes for the protection of the common environment to be funded on a concessional basis. The idea for a global environment fund was originally raised by Mostafa K. Tolba, the Egyptian executive director of UNEP. Citing recent freak weather conditions as a foretaste of what life might be like in a warmer world, he warns of climate changes raising sea levels and causing floods, storms and drought. Tolba insists: "We shall win or lose the climate struggle in the first years of the 1990s—the issue is as urgent as that."

Thomas Land

Whither private investment

Ottawa—Hopes that private investment would play a dramatically increased role in the economic strategies of many developing countries were largely unrealized during the decade of the 1980s. The lack of extensive private foreign investment, on which the so-called Brady plan for debt relief among developing countries pegged its effectiveness, has continued to cripple economic recovery in much of the developing world.

A new study by the North-South Institute, *Private Foreign Investment and Development: A Partnership for the 1990s?*, reviews the record of private foreign investment of the past decade and its future prospects.

Developing countries set about attracting private capital and liberalizing their investment rules during the 1980s for two main reasons, say authors Roy Culpeper and Michael Hardy. One was the debt crisis and the slowdown in bank lending. The more positive

reason was a growing confidence in their negotiating skills and the increased number of transnational corporations with which to deal.

Nevertheless, the share of foreign direct investment (FDI) going to developing countries actually decreased after the debt crisis, dropping from 25.5 per cent to 21.3 per cent. Latin America, in particular, suffered because of the foreign debt overhang. But Asia's share of world inflows of FDI rose from 7.8 to 9.2 per cent, mainly because of China's opening to investment.

The authors suggest other reasons for the dearth of investment: economic malaise in many countries, lack of markets or infrastructure, and the scepticism of many investors toward liberalization efforts. They also point to a renaissance of manufacturing activity in some industrial countries after a revolution in micro-electronics.

Nor was the investment broadly spread. From 1983-87 three-quarters of FDI flows to developing nations went to 15 countries: to the four largest countries in Latin America, to eight countries in Asia and to Egypt, Nigeria and Cameroon.

While the accumulated stock of Canadian foreign investment doubled (in current dollars) to \$71.3 billion between 1980 and 1987, the relative share of this investment in developing countries fell from 14.2 to 10.1 per cent. Canada has some 40 bilateral investment treaties with developing countries, mainly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In their verdict on the 1980s, Culpeper and Hardy conclude that private foreign investment is neither a solution to the debt crisis—indeed it can stimulate indebtedness—nor a panacea for the many problems facing developing countries. However, between half and three-quarters of FDI projects observed in documented studies in developing countries have had a net positive economic impact on national income and job creation.

As well, "developing countries are learning how to realize the benefits and avoid the costs of FDI through more adroit negotiations with transnational corporations and more sophisticated investment policies".

Looking to the 1990s, the authors warn that "foreign investment cannot be viewed as a substitute for lending from international banks or for official flows, but rather as a complement". They point out that FDI is unlikely to flow into the health and education sectors, or into physical infrastructure.

They also predict that the opening of new markets in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe "will in all likelihood lower the quantum of private foreign investment available to Latin America and the resource-poor countries of Africa". If Africa is even to maintain its present low levels of FDI, they add, "it must modernize its infrastructure and train its work-force to higher levels of technical proficiency."

The 48-page book also contains advice for developed countries: they need to reduce protectionist measures and support efforts for the adoption of corporate codes of conduct.

North-South Institute

• *Private Foreign Investment and Development: A Partnership for the 1990s?*, by Roy Culpeper, director for the Institute's international finance programme, and Michael Hardy, a research officer at the Institute from 1989-90, is available in English and French tumbled format for \$12.00 from the North-South Institute, 55 Murray Street, Suite 200, Ottawa, Canada K1N 5M3.

On the road to Rio 1992

Continued from page 1

depletion, pollution of air, water and the food chain, and destruction of forests, soil, plant and animal life.

The stakes are high—nothing less than the survival of life on earth. The changes that we must make in our behaviour and in our international relations are fundamental and extremely difficult to achieve. But the fact that they are imperative provides a powerful incentive to mobilize on an unprecedented scale our capacities for political, economic and social innovation and leadership. This must be manifested at every level from the behaviour of individuals to global co-operation. Such co-operation can only be based on the common interests of all humanity.

Human activities have created a technological civilization that is now global in scale and pervasive in its influence on the lives and the prospects of all members of the world community. It has produced a new kind of world with stark dichotomies between the benefits enjoyed by the few, the deprivation and suffering experienced by the majority, and the growing risks to the future of all.

The unprecedented increases in human numbers and activities that have occurred since the industrial revolution, and particularly in this century, have given rise to the deterioration of the environment and the depletion of natural resources that threaten the future of the planet. It is ironic that these impacts have occurred largely as a result of the same processes that have produced such unparalleled levels of wealth and prosperity, particularly in the industrialized countries. The gross imbalances that have been created by the concentration of economic growth in the developed nations and the high rates of population growth in the developing ones are at the centre of the current dilemma.

Redressing these imbalances will be the key to the future security of our planet—in environmental and economic as well as in traditional security terms. While there is widespread acknowledgement at the level of principle as to the need to achieve a sustainable balance between environment and development, it should be no surprise that the perspective of developing countries on these issues differs from that of industrialized countries. The developing nations point out that their industrialized counterparts are largely responsible for these risks and have been the beneficiaries of the wealth that has accumulated through the processes of economic growth. They insist that they cannot divert resources required to meet the most immediate and fundamental needs of their people to pay the additional costs of incorporating into their development policies and practices the measures needed to ameliorate major global risks.

These concerns were a primary consideration in the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations in late 1989 to convene the Earth Summit in Brazil in June 1992. It coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972 which put the environmental issue on the agenda of the international community. But it will be no mere commemorative or nostalgic event. It will be aimed at placing the world community on the pathway to a more secure, sustainable and hopeful future as we move into the twenty-first century.

To do this, it must produce



Writers and Cartoonists Syndicate

agreement on the basic principles and broad range of actions required to make the kind of transition to a sustainable future envisaged in *Our Common Future*, the historic report released in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development. That report made clear that only environmentally-sustainable development can meet the future needs of the world community, and particularly of developing countries, for continued economic growth. It rejected "no growth" as a goal, while pointing out that it would be the inevitable result of continuing on the current pathway of environmentally destructive and unsustainable development.

The 1992 conference literally deals with environment and development. This recognizes the important reality that environmental impacts arise as a result of our economic behaviour and can only be addressed effectively by changes in that behaviour, on the level of individuals as well as governments and corporations. Thus its main task will be to move the environment issue into the centre of economic policy and decision-making.

Growing recognition of the need for this transition provides the primary basis for the issues to be addressed at the Earth Summit. They include climate change, transboundary pollution, waste management, the protection of land resources, the conservation of biological diversity, the management of the oceans and coastal areas and the quality and supply of freshwater resources. Virtually all of them are currently the subject of important programmes and activities at the national level, within the United Nations and in the international non-governmental community.

"People power" will be the key to the success of the Earth Summit. The proposals that will be placed before the leaders of world governments assembled in Rio de Janeiro will be the product of an intensive process of preparation under the direction of a preparatory committee consisting of representatives of all United Nations member governments. But they will reflect the contributions of a broad range of NGOs and constituencies including science, education, culture, industry, trade unions, religion, women, youth and indigenous peoples. The decisions taken by world leaders on these proposals will be based primarily

on the political will manifested by the interest and concern of their people. And, equally, implementation of the decisions of the Earth Summit will depend largely on the commitment and actions of people.

In this transition to a more secure and sustainable future, the industrialized countries must clearly take the lead. They have developed and benefitted from the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption which have produced our present dilemma. And they, primarily, have the means and the responsibility to change them.

The Earth Summit will focus on the changes that we must make to ensure global environmental and economic security. Preparations for the conference will define the concrete measures to effect these changes. Many of our current action pathways will thus converge on the road to Brazil and will continue after Brazil within the framework of the agenda for action to be adopted there for the twenty-first century. ■

Maurice F. Strong, a national of Canada, is secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Global warming treaty feels the heat

Washington—The Intergovernmental Committee Negotiating a Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting here in February, appealed to the industrialized countries to finance Third World participation in controlling climate change.

The United Nations General Assembly created the Committee last December as part of an effort to negotiate an international treaty to control greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming. The Committee is supported by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, and is responsible for the treaty framework which must be ready for approval at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.

The United States and India reached a last-minute compromise, with India insisting that the Committee devise explicit instructions to "compensate" the

developing countries that would make the greatest sacrifices meeting the demands of the global-warming agreement.

During the debate, the delegates insisted on the developing countries' full and equitable participation. Numerous countries underlined the importance of an integrated global approach to the question of climate change, some insisted that these efforts should take into consideration specific needs of developing countries.

The Committee set up a secretariat in Geneva headed by Michael Zammit Cutajar. It also appointed two working groups to draft two texts: the first concerning commitments, especially financial, to remedy climate change, and the second on requisite legal mechanisms. The Committee also tentatively fixed the dates of its next meetings, to be held in Geneva and Nairobi in May or June 1991, in September 1991, and, if needed, between January and June 1992.

For some non-governmental organizations, it was a disappointing session in which progress was slowed by key industrialized countries' refusal to accept a precise plan for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

PrepCom II meets in Geneva

As part of the work in advance of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the UNCED secretariat has prepared 23 reports on various subjects to be presented at the meeting in Geneva from 18 March to 5 April.

In addition to government representatives, well over 100



Plantu: Le Monde

NGOs will attend the second PrepCom as well as a large number of intergovernmental organizations and observer delegations.

One paper will be an annotated provisional agenda for the meeting, another will be a summary progress report on the decisions taken by the PrepCom at its first session. A third document will be a special report of the secretary-general of the Conference on activities of the UNCED secretariat, including the structure of "Agenda 21".

In addition to these papers, UNCED has prepared reports on the following topics:

- Poverty, environment and development;
- Environment and development;
- The transfer of technology;
- New and additional financial resources, particularly for developing countries;
- Health and the environment;
- Environmental education;
- Analysis and synthesis of the results of ongoing processes and recommendations in regard to protection of the atmosphere and climate change;
- Costing exercises of mea-

sures adopted to limit possible climate change and mitigate its adverse effects;

- Integrated management of land resources;
- Alternative production systems for marginal lands;
- Preparations for and outcome of the FAO conference on sustainable agriculture;
- Forests;
- The conservation of biological diversity;
- Environmentally sound management of biotechnology;
- Protection of oceans and all kinds of seas;
- The London Dumping Convention;
- Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources;
- The sustainable use of water resources in agriculture;
- Environmentally sound management of toxic wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals.

To complement the release of these papers, the United Nations NGO Liaison Service (NGLS) is planning to do analytical summaries of some of the main documents in the aforementioned list. These summaries will probably take the form of *E & D Files 1992*, the name of a series of information sheets that the NGLS publishes on UNCED-related issues.

Another excellent source of Earth Summit information is *Network '92*, a monthly newsletter dedicated to UNCED, published by The Centre for Our Common Future, Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Pâquis, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland, tel. (022) 732 71 17.

For more information on NGLS' activities, contact NGLS at Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Tel. (41 22) 734 6011, ext. 2005, Fax 733 6542.

UNCED Address

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Meetings on sustainable agriculture planned

As part of its preparations for the 1992 Earth Summit, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will co-host two meetings on sustainable agriculture in 1991.

The first meeting, "Netherlands/FAO Conference on Agriculture and the Environment: Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development", is co-sponsored by the Dutch government and will take place from 15-18 April in Amsterdam.

The second, a joint FAO/UNEP meeting, is planned for August 1991.

These will be the first international FAO meetings to focus on sustainable agriculture and, as such, will significantly influence FAO agriculture projects. They will also provide the only input on the subject to the much larger, all-encompassing Summit.

For more information about the meetings, contact Eileen Nic, International Organization of Consumers Unions Representative to UN ECOSOC NY, 825 West End Ave., New York, NY 10025, United States.

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El Salvador

Refugees take on their own repatriation

By John L. Hammond

There are about 800,000 refugees and displaced persons scattered in settlements throughout Central America, most of them waiting, often in enforced idleness, for the opportunity to return to their homelands. While governments in the region accept in principle the policy of repatriation as the best "durable" solution to the often intractable refugee problem, getting these people back to their villages and farms has been a slow and frustrating task, especially given the ongoing conflicts that destabilize the region.

So, when a community of some 8,000 Salvadoran refugees took it upon themselves to pull up stakes in Honduras and make the uncertain journey back to war-torn Morazán province in the north-eastern part of the country, they caused a mix of apprehension and enthusiasm among government, non-governmental organizations and UN officials involved in refugee affairs.

Now 18 months into rebuilding a new community, the group is demonstrating that, if successful, its aggressive approach to self-organized, community-oriented repatriation may provide a model for other groups. John Hammond provides this report.

Last November, the community of Segundo Montes City, El Salvador, celebrated its first anniversary. It had been founded by the first contingent of the 8,000 people who returned to El Salvador from the refugee camp in Colomocagua, Honduras, between November 1989 and February 1990, in what was reportedly the largest repatriation in the history of the Americas. They named their community for Segundo Montes, one of the Jesuit priests of the Central American University murdered in 1989 who was a long-time supporter of the refugees at Colomocagua.

What distinguished them from other repatriates was that they did not return individually to their original homes; instead, they stayed together to create a new community in northern Morazán province, from which many of them had fled because of the civil war 10 years ago. They marked the anniversary by announcing ambitious plans for the community.

After nine years on the dole, they hope to be self-sufficient despite the grinding rural poverty that surrounds them. If all goes according to plan, they will produce consumer goods in light-industrial factories for sale in the surrounding communities. They are running their community democratically and meeting needs collectively. As ambitious as these plans may be, many observers feel they may succeed, given the extraordinary capacity for organization and solidarity they demonstrated earlier in Colomocagua.

It was actually in that refugee camp that they developed their community-building skills. In Colomocagua and other refugee camps, Salvadorans ran extensive programmes for health and education. For example, 85 per cent of the adults were illiterate when they arrived in Colomocagua; when they left, literacy had climbed to 85 per cent.

Supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and assisted by international development NGOs, the refugees, all peasants in origin learned and practised semi-industrial skills in their workshops, where they made clothing, shoes, furniture and a variety of other goods. Though the machines and materials were supplied from outside, the camp became self-sufficient in all the goods produced. These are the skills and the equipment they have taken back

with them to El Salvador, in hopes of making their new community self-supporting.

The Colomocagua refugees first began to consider repatriation seriously as they prepared for the International Conference on Central American Refugees organized by UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guatemala in June 1989. Though refugee delegations were not invited, they did send written statements and took to heart the pledges by six Central American governments to support repatriation as the best "durable solution" to their massive refugee problems.

Once they decided to return, UNHCR began to negotiate with the Salvadoran government on their behalf. The government, suspicious of the refugee population's sympathies in the country's 11-year-old civil war, was reluctant to allow such a large number of people return to an area in conflict. But the refugees insisted on their right to return to where they chose.

As negotiations dragged on, the refugees decided to move back to Morazán province without authorization. On 18 November, 700 refugees made the road on foot in three days. According to the road on foot in one day. According to one of them, "we were men, women, children, a few people as old as 60, but they walked too." After a second group came in December, the government finally authorized the return.

Moving more than 8,000 people, even that short distance, was quite a logistical feat. Twice a week until the end of February, a caravan of 100 trucks carried people, their few belongings, and the dismantled remains of the refugee camp to the new site, a barren expanse spread out along four kilometres of a main road.

All of them were overjoyed not only to be back in their homeland but also to escape the restrictions of the refugee camp—the children had never been outside it. "There we were locked in," said Cristina Avila of the community's governing council. "Here people can go anywhere." Since then they have been busy re-establishing basic community activities: schools, health care, food distribution, and production.

But life is still difficult. While community construction teams have completed solid wooden houses for one third of the families, most still live in makeshift shacks under roofs of plastic sheets. In the middle



Young repatriate from Colomocagua at work in community shop.

of a war zone, they are harassed by the Salvadoran army, which frequently impedes passage of goods and visitors to the com-

munity and has detained several repatriates for brief periods.

However, they are convinced they will establish a unique, self-supporting community. As governing council co-ordinator Juan José Rodríguez expresses it, "we want to make a way of life where there is enough for everybody, where nobody is abandoned, everyone is getting educated, everyone's health is taken care of, into a reality."

They have asked for a heavy investment in their future from development NGOs: some \$8 million in assistance for the next two years. That might seem to contradict the principle of self-sufficiency, and some donors are reluctant to fund so much dependency.

But a member of the community's planning office argued that without the aid to allow them to realize their project, they would have to return to subsistence farming and would lose all the skills they had acquired in the refugee camp, thus forgoing any possibility of development.

In fact, they are asking for a decreasing amount of support for each of the next seven years. After that time, they claim, they will be self-sufficient.

Although their hopes to build a new model for developing poor, isolated rural communities remain more an ambition than a reality, the people of Segundo Montes City have provided a possible model for refugee policy: that of refugee-organized collective repatriation. They have reintegrated into their country of origin, and though their situation remains difficult and their needs great, they are working toward self-sufficiency in their own land. ■

John L. Hammond is a professor of sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Self-sufficiency key to durable solutions

Agencies assisting refugees try to find durable solutions that will enable them to support themselves—either in the country of refuge, by returning to their home country or by resettlement in some third country. Although refugee camps are intended to be temporary havens, many refugees spend years in them.

In fact, the world refugee population grew by 50 per cent in the 1980s, due less to an increase in the number of new refugees than to a failure to find alternatives for the refugees of previous years, particularly in Central America and South-East and South-West Asia.

Voluntary repatriation is widely regarded as the most desirable solution, but one that only rarely succeeds. The UNHCR, the lead agency in refugee affairs, assists repatriation only in the framework of a tripartite agreement with the home and host countries to guarantee the refugees' safety. Political problems, however, frequently interfere to prevent or delay the return.

One reason why durable solutions are so hard to find is that assistance rarely takes advantage of the refugees' own resources. Refugees are regarded as passive victims to be pitied or objects to be administered, but not as people capable of acting to meet their own needs.

Over the past decade, the United Nations has actively pursued a policy of taking refugee aid a step further towards the goal of self-sufficiency. More recently in El Salvador, UNHCR, UNDP and ILO have supported tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons with programmes to strengthen community organization, create credit facilities and generate income-producing work.

Refugee agencies sometimes are slow to take advantage of the resources

inherent in the refugee population they hope to help. Refugees of peasant origin, usually lacking formal education, have shown a great capacity for initiative and organization. Fleeing in the first place implies making choices and taking action, however compelled by circumstances beyond their control. Far more refugees have repatriated on their own, in families or small groups, moreover, than with international assistance and formal tripartite agreements.

By fleeing and returning home without assistance, refugees have shown their capacity to act individually. As the accompanying article illustrates, the Salvadoran refugees, both in the Honduran camps—by their internal organization and self-education—and in the repatriations, have shown something more: that they can act collectively. The strong collective commitment to the community and solid organization give Segundo Montes City and the communities of repatriates from other refugee camps an unusual advantage in the long term.

Through these refugee-organized repatriations, almost all the assisted Salvadoran refugees in Honduras have returned to their home country. But no other group of refugees has so greatly influenced their conditions of return, according to professor Barry N. Stein, refugee expert at Michigan State University. Stein points out that refugee initiative has been important in other cases, such as the massive repatriations that have taken place over the past year in newly independent Namibia in southern Africa. The refugee-policy community, and refugees around the world, can learn from the Salvadoran experience.

J.L.H.

China

Demographers assess changes

By Carol Vlassoff, Iqbal Shah and Shen Yimin

During the 1970s and 1980s the Chinese government introduced a series of family-planning policies designed to slow its alarming birth rate. The results, while mixed, represent what many demographers describe as one of the most rapid "fertility transitions" in human history.

More subtle social effects of this remarkable turnaround are only now beginning to emerge. Drawing on census data and in-depth surveys by newly-trained Chinese demographers, fascinating changes are now being charted. Two in-depth fertility surveys involved interviews with married women aged 15-49 in various parts of China. They were carried out by China's State Statistical Bureau during the 1980s with the help of the International Statistical Institute in the Hague and the governments of Norway, Finland and Denmark.

When the Chinese government announced its first family-planning programme, women in China had an average of nearly six children. The "later, longer, fewer" campaign of 1972, which emphasized later ages for marriage and childbearing, longer intervals between births and smaller families, showed positive signs of getting the birth control message across. By the time the one-child-per-family policy was announced in 1979, fertility had fallen to 2.7 children per woman.

The one-child policy has led to even further reductions. Urban areas such as Beijing and Shanghai have essentially conformed to the policy, while rural areas have reached an average of about two children per family.

The fertility reduction programme has been successful; however, it may have gone farther than some wanted.

Because China has now attained fertility levels impressively lower than most other developing countries, researchers are beginning to look at how Chinese society has adapted to the family planning programmes. Not all of the developments have been positive.



China's birth rates have slowed, causing subtle social changes and some concern over future labour shortages.

Zeng Yi, deputy director of the Institute of Population Research at Beijing University, says the discrepancy in statistics between rural and urban settings could be a major problem. He predicts that, in the future, only 8 per cent of rural women will comply with the one-child policy, with the average settling at 2.5 children per woman. But 61 per cent of urban women will have only one child.

This, in the long run, could mean a shortage of young people in cities to care for their elderly parents. "Serious labour shortages and a significant health care burden imposed by aging urban populations will plague Chinese cities in the next century unless policies are introduced to mediate these effects," Zeng Yi says.

These policies, he says, should encourage rural migration to towns and cities and greater consistency in family planning in rural and urban areas. Stricter enforcement of birth control, for instance, may be needed in the countryside, whereas some relaxation

of the one-child policy could be considered in urban areas.

The birth control programmes have also been unable to change the culturally ingrained preference for a son among married couples. Despite government efforts, increased education and modernization, more than 50 per cent of respondents in the fertility surveys wanted a son as their first child, compared to only 5 per cent who wanted a daughter. The others did not express a preference.

Often, those couples whose first child was a male signed the one-child certificate, whereas those whose first offspring was female continued having other children in the hope of having a boy.

Despite the potential problems of urban underpopulation and the inherent favouritism of son preference, the in-depth fertility surveys showed that the Chinese have managed to fuse successfully the modern notion of family planning with tradition.

One of the main topics of the study was the age of Chinese couples at marriage and co-residence. An important component of China's birth control programme has been the encouragement of late marriage and the postponement of childbearing. The legal marriage age was raised from 18 to 20 in 1980 but the officially recommended age has been higher—23 for rural women and 25 for urban women.

Since 1982, marriage age has averaged well over 20 years old in all of China's provinces. Indeed, average marriage ages have been similar to those of developed countries for nearly two decades.

Many traditional marriage customs, however, remain largely intact. For instance, the tendency to have both an official state marriage and a traditional family ceremony still exists. Co-residence with parents after marriage is also still common in China. Despite marrying later, between 70 and 85 per cent of all couples identified in the surveys lived with their parents for some time after marriage. Marriage partners and freedom of choice were also investigated by the fertility surveys.

Traditionally, the selection of appropriate marital partners was the domain of Chinese parents through arranged marriages. The marriage laws, introduced in 1950 and revised in 1980, outlawed many ancient practices, including early marriage, arranged marriage, dowry and bride-price.

Although some of these traditions still persist, the laws have supported those who want more control over marriage decisions.

The surveys indicate that parental involvement in marriage has slowly diminished. Half of the women in Beijing stated their parents were not involved, but parents are not completely out of the picture.

"What appears to be happening in marriage decisions in China is that, although parents today do not have absolute control over their children's marriages like in earlier generations, young people are not necessarily shutting their parents out of the process either," say Nancy Riley and Zhen Jian, two researchers involved in the fertility survey. ■

Indian enumerators march forth

By S. Muthiah

What has been called "the world's greatest administrative exercise" is now under way in India. The groundwork for the 1991 census has just been completed and the actual head count takes place between 9 February and 5 March. Training for the operation has been going on for two years.

In the first stage, every type of shelter was listed and numbered. Over the last nine months house-listing has been going on to identify any type of "structure that affords shelter and serves as housing for people".

"From the lowly jhuggis (shanties) to tents, from boats and carts to treehouses," says A.R. Nanda, registrar-general and census commissioner, "every type of 'home' has been numbered."

Nanda is the latest in a line of commissioners who have been carrying on the census every 10 years since it was first introduced in India by the British in 1871.

The numbered housing units are grouped in blocks—200 to a block in urban areas and 250 to a block in rural areas. A group of blocks is assigned to each enumerator.

More than 1.5 million enumerators, working with 300,000 supervisors, were selected and all went on training programmes. They were primary school

teachers or junior level government officers selected for their familiarity with a particular area, its customs, habits and dialects.

The training prepares the enumerators to fill forms correctly with answers to such questions as age, gender, education and employment status, and also sensitizes them to the social realities on the ground.

As of the 1981 census, there were 812 million Indians.

"When, for instance, the enumerator reaches a point in his questioning where he wants information about the women in the household," Nanda says, "he needs to be extra careful in the Indian context that he offends no one."

"Usually, in rural India, it is the male head of the family who answers all questions. And he often plays down the work done by the women of his household. We try to train the enumerators to get a more accurate picture tactfully."

The trained enumerators are fanning out throughout the country. Often they will have to visit a home two or three times before they find people willing to provide the information.

At the same time they have to take care the same person is not counted more than once. Special arrangements have to be made to count migrant labour, people on holiday and religious pilgrims.

The work is tedious and involves long hours and low pay. Questioning, recording, counting and rechecking is the enumerator's lot.

Till now the census has concentrated on demographics and socio-economic data. This time it also seeks data on the housing and employment situation.

The first provisional results of the census will be available from mid-March 1991, just 10 days after all the questionnaires are in. Tabulation and publication of provisional results and reports will begin in the second half of 1991 and go on till 1995.

That is about the time publication of final figures begins. Publication of final reports will go on till it is time for the preliminary work to begin for census 2001—that is, in 1999. ■

GEMINI

IDRC Reports

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El Pailon María Ponce

Preparing for the worst

By Ailsa Holloway and H.A. Hamad-Elneil

Disasters have a lot in common including the fact that they tend to hit poor people hardest and much of the suffering and loss they cause is avoidable.

For poor people, particularly those in developing countries, the impact of disasters—whether natural or man-made—last for months, often years, after the event. After the images of collapsed buildings and flooded neighbourhoods have faded from television screens elsewhere, the affected communities face the daunting tasks of recovery and reconstruction—rebuilding homes, restoring water supply systems, repairing health facilities and coping with crippled agricultural production.

Because the development process is so easily disrupted by disasters, the United Nations is making preparedness for such events an integral part of development planning. Disaster preparedness is a kind of insurance policy to protect vulnerable communities.

There is no question as to the devastating immediate and long-term impacts of disasters. Between 1960-1989, for instance, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, based in Brussels, estimated that natural disasters in China alone affected 233 million people, resulting in more than 700,000 deaths and 400,000 people injured.

No country or continent is free from the threat of natural or other catastrophes. In 1989, the southern African country of Malawi was confronted by five different types of disasters: cyclones, floods, an earthquake, a drought and a mealy bug infestation that destroyed the crops of 200,000 farmers.

One of the direct costs incurred after the Armenian earthquake in 1988 was the need to repair or reconstruct the 32 hospitals and 224 health centres and clinics destroyed in the disaster. The November 1970 cyclone in Bangladesh resulted in the indirect loss of one source of food, due to the deaths of 60 per cent of the country's fishermen. Following the 1970s drought in the Sahel, the Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that an important secondary effect was to halve the GNPs of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

The link between disasters and development is quite clear. Communities at more advanced levels of development tend to be less vulnerable to natural and other hazards. For this reason the post-impact and long-term consequences are less marked in prepared communities with better developed services, trained personnel and functioning communication systems. Thus an earthquake in San Francisco is not nearly as devastating as an earthquake in Mexico City.

In dealing with disasters in developing countries, health has a special priority. It is health services which reach out to assist the most vulnerable members of a community in normal times—women, children, the disabled and the elderly. There is plenty of evidence that these and other at-risk populations are those most seriously affected when a disaster strikes. We have seen that when health programmes function well on a routine basis, they are better equipped to meet a community's needs when urgent medical care is required following a disaster of any kind.

Coping w

According to Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), we can expect natural and man-made disasters to increase in coming years, probably dramatically in some regions. Environmental deterioration, crowding in cities and possible climate changes are all adding to the long list of things that can go wrong, terribly wrong, on a pretty regular basis. Since we know disasters are going to take place, emphasis should be placed on preparedness and, especially in the case of man-made disasters such as famine and epidemics, the prevention of avoidable disasters.

Repeated exposure to the devastating consequences of calamities has given governments and United Nations organizations—WHO, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the United Nations Develop-

Yet, thousands of unnecessary hospital admissions and deaths can be prevented if there exist trained health workers in high-risk communities, short-wave radios that can report the first cases from rural areas hundreds of kilometres away, and rapid access to the correct vaccine.

Community preparedness

From many years' experience in Latin America and the Caribbean, we have learned that ultimate responsibility for managing the immediate post-impact period after a disaster rests with the affected community itself. We have also learned that community members can be trained to be better prepared to respond to disasters—to carry out search and rescue immediately—and to provide first-aid.

Within this context disaster management training becomes a development priority. The global initiative taken by UNDP and UNDRO to improve these capabilities at regional and national levels is an important opportunity to build key preparedness skills in disaster-prone countries.

The importance of community preparedness is most clearly apparent after sudden-impact natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, tropical storms or volcanic eruptions. In the immediate post-impact period, several days may pass before outside help arrives, and international assistance seldom arrives before 48 hours.

Data collected after the Armenian earthquake in 1988, for example, highlight this dramatically. In three communities studied, 95 per cent of the trapped victims who needed medical treatment were extricated from the rubble by other village residents, rather than civil defence workers. Moreover, in the same communities, the likelihood of being rescued alive declined quickly within the first 24 hours after the quake.

International help did not begin to arrive until the third day after the disaster, underscoring the need for effective preparation for disasters at the community level. When community residents are trained and equipped correctly to carry out search and rescue and give immediate first aid, they can effectively reduce the numbers of serious casualties and deaths in those precious first 24-48 hours.

Health sector preparedness ap-

plies to disasters of all types. Today we are witness to unprecedented levels of population displacement. It is estimated that there are now more than 15 million political refugees and 15-20 million people internally displaced—mostly in developing countries. These groups and their host communities are particularly vulnerable to natural and other hazards. Health services have a special responsibility for identifying such high-risk populations, for early detection of epidemic, nutritional and other health risks and for timely response to lower the likelihood of unnecessary death and disability.

We should be able to count on our health services when a disaster strikes—of any type. Therefore, disaster-resistance should be a key criterion when evaluating the appropriateness of hospital/health centre design or site.

There are two other important dimensions that should not be overlooked. One is multi-sectoral co-operation in disaster preparedness. Experience shows that no one sector or agency can effectively cope with a disaster alone. In many countries requires the involvement of groups including civil defence, key-line ministries, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, other non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Another important dimension to the health aspects of disaster preparedness is scientific research. Based on past research, disaster epidemiologists point out that the risk of death from earthquakes is greatest in buildings constructed from stone masonry. In the Armenian earthquake, 87 per cent of all occupants of precast-concrete frame buildings died. Epidemiologists have shown that up to 33 per cent of all seriously malnourished children with measles can die in an emergency refugee influx. Such data is useful because it highlights ways we can better avert unnecessary deaths.

By declaring the theme of World Health Day 1991 to be Disaster Preparedness, WHO challenges us to make these and other cost-effective disaster reduction measures affordable and accessible to our most vulnerable communities. ■

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With disaster

ment Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), among them—first-hand experience as to how development programmes can be jeopardized by disasters.

This collective experience has given rise to a new consciousness regarding prevention and preparedness. The 1990s have been proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction by the United Nations General Assembly. On 7 April, World Health Day highlights the need for preparedness in the health aspects of disasters. The stories here illustrate some of the concrete steps being taken to reduce unnecessary human tragedy and economic loss.

Back to the time of cholera

Doctors were shocked when they first detected cholera in patients coming to hospitals in the northern coastal city of Chimbote last 23 January. After all, there had not been a cholera epidemic in Peru for over a century. Experts in communicable diseases, however, were not surprised by the reports: It is well known that living standards and health conditions have deteriorated to such an extent in the poor neighbourhoods throughout Peru that serious outbreaks of deadly diseases are being reported regularly. For many health officials, it was just a matter of time before things got out of control.

The presence of cholera, a diarrhoeal disease that saps the strength of children and adults alike and

coastal contamination. These conditions, together with ignorance, malnutrition and poor hygiene, set the stage for disaster.

By the end of February, the epidemic had swept down the Pacific coast and was spreading inland, affecting, by estimates of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, over 40,000 persons, hospitalizing 5,000 and killing 150.

However, given that the epidemic has spread to 13 of this country's 25 provinces containing most of Peru's 21 million inhabitants, it is amazing that the death toll is this low. Thanks to the quick action of local authorities and the concerted response of the international health community, the devastation of a full-blown killer epidemic has been

declared a state of emergency and announced a series of anti-cholera guidelines, including a ban on eating uncooked fish and shellfish.

The ministry also appealed to the international health community for several millions of dollars worth of drugs, equipment and supplies for water treatment as well as for laboratory cholera diagnoses and control.

The government immediately linked up with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which serves as the regional office for WHO. As it happened, Peru's health minister, Carlos Vidal, himself a former PAHO official, was visiting Washington, DC, when the outbreak was first announced. He was able to meet immediately with top PAHO officials at the headquarters there.

PAHO then set up a special task force on the epidemic to co-ordinate international assistance and to oversee the management and control of the epidemic as it might affect neighbouring countries. Included in the task force were epidemiologists and experts in communicable diseases. On the basis of expert estimates that the epidemic could rage for three months and infect more than 200,000 persons, the task force placed orders for necessary medicines and supplies.

Together with UNICEF, PAHO arranged an airlift of 500,000 doses of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) salts, key to the treatment of diarrhoea. The medicines were immediately distributed through the network of some 4,000 community centres.

Information campaign

Although a cholera vaccine exists, WHO advised that, since it offers at best only limited protection of a short duration, the vaccine would not be an effective measure of prevention or control in the Peruvian case.

Instead, the PAHO Task Force pushed for an aggressive media information campaign placing emphasis on practical, effective precautions of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, including waste collection and disposal, food handling and preparation.

Local PAHO officials had a comic book on cholera and its prevention printed up and widely circulated through local newspapers. UNICEF provided educational posters and publicity materials for the media, explaining measures to prevent the disease.

The information campaign also sought to prevent further unnecessary damage to Peru's devastated economy by countering some early overreactions in which travel restrictions and quarantines were imposed by neighbouring countries, resulting in the destruction of valuable food exports. WHO issued lists of food-stuffs that were free of infection.

Special efforts were made to calm nervous tourists, advising common sense precautions. WHO also argued against the old-fashioned *cordon sanitaire* of border checkpoints, arguing that it would "divert human and financial resources from the more effective control activities".

Despite some overzealous precautions on the part of neighbouring countries which hoped to prevent the spread of the epidemic across their borders, Latin American nations were quick to provide aid on an emergency basis. Cuba was the first country to send a group of doc-

tors who specialize in fighting epidemics as well as serum and medical equipment. The Brazilian government responded by flying in 12 tons of medicines from the ministry of health.

The European Community (EC) and many individual European countries sent aid and deposited funds in special bank accounts set up by PAHO. Spain, the United States and other countries also sent specialized



Over 1,600 victims may die.

medical teams and supplies.

Non-governmental organizations such as Secours Catholique France, Save the Children and Médecins sans Frontières also joined the quick-response network.

However, according to Claude de Ville, PAHO's chief of disaster preparedness and relief co-ordination, "99.9 per cent of the work is being performed by Peruvian health workers." While there has been good co-ordination of national and international efforts in this case, there were many problems. "The emphasis was placed on the treatment of patients, as opposed to preventive measures such as improving water supply and sewerage systems," de Ville explains. "This preventive approach requires more funds and more co-ordination and the co-operation of government ministries that may have another set of priorities."

While the rate of hospital entries had not declined as of the end of February, de Ville says the number of deaths has been slowed noticeably to .1 per cent of confirmed cases. Still, the minister of health, Carlos Vidal, has repeated PAHO's calculation that the deaths may total 1,600 to 2,000 persons before the epidemic loses its virulence.

Peru's cholera epidemic is symptomatic of the enormous economic and social stress that Peruvians are undergoing, the direct result of the decade of neglect and impoverishment, what is known as the "lost decade" in Latin America's development. While the underlying poverty permits such an epidemic—like Africa's famines—to remain, the safety nets of preparedness and concerted response have unquestionably reduced the suffering that comes with the plagues of old. The tragedy is that the high technology emergency system that can be assembled in a matter of days is needed to combat a plague that should have been left behind in the nineteenth century. ■



The epidemic is linked directly to appalling living conditions in Peru.

brings quick death without proper treatment, put the outbreak on an immediate emergency footing as health authorities sought to treat infected patients and move quickly to slow the spread of the disease into other vulnerable communities.

The cholera bacteria had found ideal conditions. In poor neighbourhoods in Peru, water and sanitation facilities are absent or at best rudimentary. The local diet includes raw fish which is susceptible to

largely avoided. This did not happen by chance.

The key to combatting the epidemic lay in the emergency response network of communications, appropriate medical technology and warning systems that has been patched together to respond to emergencies of this magnitude.

Within hours of confirming the first cholera cases in Chimbote, local authorities relayed the alarm to the ministry of health in Lima which

Free markets hit labour hard

Continued from page 1



These workers in a Polish pharmaceutical plant suffer terrible working conditions, low pay and little job security. For them, there is no alternative to the painful transition to capitalism.

allowed only a 2 to 4 per cent increase in pay for every 10 per cent jump in inflation. In Czechoslovakia, which put almost as tough a transition plan into effect in January 1991, wages are being held well under the expected 30 per cent inflation rate.

Workers end up earning low Eastern European salaries and paying West European prices. Last year, for example, an average employee in Poland made the equivalent of \$50 or \$60 a month and paid \$10 for a kilo of ham. Having less income to begin with, the freeing of prices and the end of subsidies on rent and heating have had a greater impact on the lives of workers than on other sectors of society. Such policies, which Hungary and Yugoslavia are gradually putting into effect, and Romania and Bulgaria are being pressured by the West to follow, will further depress the workers' already low living standards.

Workers are also facing massive unemployment, as the state factories, where few middle class people work, are being sold off, trimmed of staff, or closed before other jobs are found in the private sector or adequate support systems developed. If the current policies continue, unemployment could climb to 14 million (or 21 per cent of the labour force by 1994), according to a study done by Morgan Stanley Bank. Women are likely to suffer the most, since plant managers initially tend to cut back people who are second wage earners, and administrative staff, where women dominate. According to Henrick Szlajfer, a member of the Solidarity Union and a political scientist, while overall unemployment is 7 per cent in Poland, it has already reached 20 per cent among women in the hard-hit regions of the country.

Fredi Jahn, an official in the metal workers union in the former East Germany, where unemployment has climbed to 8 per cent, shares the growing anger of those in Eastern Europe. "We didn't go out in the streets to help end the communist system," he says in disgust, "just so we could lose our jobs and get tossed out ourselves." But one advantage Jahn has that other union members in Eastern Europe do not have is access to advice and assistance from the experienced unions of the former West Germany. Even before the unification of the country and the unions, this edge enabled the East German metal workers to introduce and win a demand for job guarantees during their warning strike last July. Such bargaining is a concept that unions and workers in the rest of Eastern Europe have hardly begun to think about.

There are other factors that make unemployment more difficult for workers in Eastern Europe compared to those in the West. Frequently, workers lose not only their jobs, but also their housing, access to loans, health insurance and many other social benefits connected to the work site. The scarcity of housing makes it almost

impossible to move to another region to find work. The tradition of nearly single-industry areas like the textile mills in Poland's Lodz, the steel mills in Krakow and the mines in the Silesia region, gives the workers almost no alternative employment.

Eastern European countries are not used to dealing with unemployment, so there are no private employment agencies. Even in Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia, where state labour offices are beginning to be set up on a Western model, there are no computers to keep track of jobs; the staff is totally inexperienced in job counselling. The ratio of staff to job hunters is 1:190 in Poland compared to 1:64 in many industrial countries.

David Fretwell, an employment specialist with the World Bank, believes these countries are budgeting too little funds for the existing and anticipated unemployment needs. In Poland last year, less than 1 per cent of GNP was allotted compared to the 3 per cent or more many industrial countries budget when employment reaches 10 per cent.

He also thinks too little is spent in the region on preparing for new employment rather than just income support. Poland provided job training to less than 1 per cent of the more than one million unemployed and is aiming to train only 7 per cent this year when unemployment is expected to reach two million. Solidarity's Szlajfer is not optimistic about the possibility of public-works projects as a temporary solution. "It was talked about in the press, but not by the government. It doesn't fit the current fashion, which doesn't favour things run by government. The ideologues of the free market are so strong that the administration is more like the nineteenth century than a modern state."

In Poland, unemployment benefits—which are limited to one year—are being reduced to 30 per cent of past wages—wages that were already inadequate. "There are 200,000 people in Poland who are going to run out of unemployment benefits in the next few months," said Fretwell. "The second tier of protection that comes from a social welfare system in the West isn't there in these countries, or just beginning and rudimentary at best. It doesn't provide cash. An informal network of charities may give a person some coal or clothes, a meal at a food kitchen."

Unions that might help workers facing this crisis are greatly hampered by their inexperience and statist legacy. Under the old regimes, unions tended to be tame and were usually denied the right to strike. This has discredited the concept of union organizing and reduced membership in the old unions that have survived. The communist unions, except in Poland, generally encouraged workers, who were and remain passive, to avoid a fight. As Jutte Steiniecke, an official

of the metal workers union in the former East Germany said, "People don't know how to behave under these new conditions. We always had a consensus in the past."

To provide them with skills and information, the AFL-CIO, a United States national labour organization, has run some seminars mainly in Poland. Its Europe-based parent organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), has tried to keep representatives in the Eastern European countries to act as consultants to the unions. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is advising on the new labour laws being written, providing printed materials and seminars on the basics of union consciousness. The money for these activities in all the labour organizations is limited, and ILO has begun fund raising for projects among donor countries.

Oscar de Vries, the European director of ILO, evaluating the state of the Eastern European unions, said, "When you meet with union leaders they point to difficulties, but basically they lack understanding of

Collective bargaining is a concept that unions in Eastern Europe have hardly begun to think about

what it is all about. Collective bargaining is still strange to them. They don't know how a trade union functions in a market economy, how it can directly influence its members' working conditions and questions of job security."

But Solidarity was so identified with the government, says de Vries, that it accepted the whole economic package, including harsh IMF conditions, without seriously discussing it. "In Eastern Europe the unions embraced them because they still continued their old style of following the government. Maybe it's less true now, but a year was lost."

De Vries believes it will probably take another year and a half before the unions realize they have some power vis-à-vis the government, and five or six years before the process of creating a new labour movement

union have a chance of heading Solidarity now, and membership is dropping below two million from 10 million in 1980.

One of the positive developments, he said, was that Solidarity and the communist unions have begun to co-operate at the factory level in a way that was unthinkable a year ago. Their demands in current negotiations focus mainly on getting higher wages, and they are expected to be given a 6 per cent increase against inflation. However, there is little sign the leadership is beginning to see the unions as a force to influence employment or economic policy. Some of the members, according to Szlajfer, are beginning to talk about the need for a social pact on the closing of factories, job creation and social benefits.

Czechoslovakia has the advantage of a united labour movement. The five-million-member Confederation of Free Trade Unions was created after the revolution of 1989. It has president Vaclav Havel as an ally who wants to see an economic transition that keeps suffering at a minimum. Together they were able to keep price controls on basics like some food items, heating and transportation. A place was made for the unions on the influential Council on Economic and Social Consensus. Stronger

than Havel and the unions for now is finance minister Vaclav Klaus who enacted a tough transition policy similar to Poland's.

In Hungary, the three-and-a-half-million member MSZOSZ, like many formerly communist unions, has redefined its role from protector of the party to protector of the worker. Despite its name, the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions, with 150,000 members, is closely linked to the main opposition party, the Free Democrats. The Workers' Councils, with 10,000 members, are tied to the ruling Democratic Forum. The new unions may end up in the old pattern of putting party interests ahead of the workers. There is also the chance in Hungary and the rest of Eastern Europe that the unions will constantly be lagging behind the people. It was only after Hungarian taxi and truck drivers



is complete. Overlooked in his estimate is the fact that as factories are closed and unemployment mounts, the unions' base of operations and potential strength will be undercut.

In addition to the former East German unions, de Vries believes those in Czechoslovakia and Poland have the best chance of becoming sophisticated enough to start to counter the worker's disadvantage in the transition. Yet he wonders whether now that Lech Walesa has been elected president in Poland, Solidarity will fall back into the old habit of just supporting the government.

Szlajfer says the government is backing new leaders for the union who will do exactly that. While there are signs of defiance around the country, he does not think those who want to turn it into a militant

stopped traffic over a fuel price hike that the unions came out to support them. The actions and strikes that are increasing throughout the region are as likely to be wildcat as union led.

It is not at all certain that the unions will be able to gain the experience and credibility needed quickly enough to channel effectively the growing discontent and to moderate the harsh transition policy. If they are unable to do it, there is the likelihood of a social explosion that could threaten the fragile democracy so recently established in Eastern Europe. ■

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Indonesia

Mangroves: Second class forests?

By Toshihiro Nakano

The villagers recall it well: A vast expanse of green, salt water swamps sheltering the river where it spilled into the blue ocean. The swamps were rich in tropical vegetation and marine and fresh water life, a spawning ground for fish and a preferred nesting area of many birds. Today, in little more than a decade, the coastal mangrove forest in Kamal Muara, a seaside suburb of Jakarta, has been devastated, its fragile ecosystem all but dead.

The appalling destruction of mangrove forests, largely the result of logging and industrial development throughout Asia and the Pacific where these unique ecosystems are concentrated, has galvanized conservationists and scientists to pool their knowledge and resources to save them from further depletion.

"Most people today consider these forests to be foul, ill-smelling, insect-ridden, difficult and even dangerous," says Lawrence Hamilton of Hawaii's East-West Center. Because of this, he believes, precious swamp forests are being neglected or degraded on a scale matching or even exceeding the destruction of tropical rainforests, which have finally captured positive media and public attention.

Tropical mangroves, long undervalued and widely considered as "orphan" forests, form unique intertidal ecosystems thriving on saline sediments along the coasts of seas and rivers. If properly managed, they provide the indigenous coastal dwellers with valuable sources of food, fuelwood and other essentials. In addition, they serve as natural flood and land erosion barriers and also control the intrusion of salt water past the shoreline.

In fact, more economic analyses may well demonstrate that mangrove forests preserved in their natural state can yield greater benefits. A study conducted in eastern Thailand indicates that the potential yield from mangrove plantations is more than 10 times higher than the benefit expected from any other land-use alternative. However, many of these mangrove forests have given way to agricultural fields, aquaculture ponds, coastal roads, housing and even to garbage dumps.

International concern for the mangrove ecosystem focuses on several Japanese companies which are responsible for much of the current damage, particularly in South-East Asia.

A consortium of five Japanese paper companies, for example, operating on the small island of Tarakan off East Kalimantan, Indonesia, is reported to be exporting to Japan about 126,000 tons of mangrove chips each year and, as a result, clearing 150 hectares of mangrove trees each month or about 2,000 hectares per year. Mangrove wood is used for high-quality computer paper and newsprint, both in great demand in the industrialized world.

The total area of mangrove forests in the world remains unknown but, in Asia and the Pacific, it is estimated at six to eight million hectares, about half of which can be found in Indonesia. Of its original 4.6 million hectares of mangroves, only 3.2 million hectares remain productive today, according to a recent media account. Indonesia's coastal mangrove forests, the largest in the world, might be reduced to a distant memory without massive reforestation programmes now.

The increase in coastal shrimp farming in recent years is blamed for much of the mangrove deforestation in Thailand, says the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional office for Asia and the



Some of the 97 Japanese volunteers who helped replant thousands of trees in a mangrove swamp near Jakarta last October.

Pacific, based in Bangkok. The country ranks third, after Indonesia and Malaysia, in the region's mangrove concentrations, and is taking steps to protect its shorelines.

Recent UNEP data compiled by the Asian Wetland Bureau indicate that Malaysia, the largest Asian exporter of logs and timber to Japan, "ranks very low" in mangrove protection and is reportedly conserving only 1 per cent of its wetland forests.

In the Philippines the situation is also serious. Crispino Saclauso, professor at the University of the Philippines college of fisheries, estimates that his country's healthy mangroves declined to 110,000 hectares in 1988 from 448,310 two decades ago.

Alarmed by the environmental damage occurring throughout the region, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), based in the Philippine capital of Manila, now provides project loans and grants on the basis of its assessment of their environmental benefits and impacts. Last year, the Bank provided a grant of \$600,000 to OISCA-International, a Tokyo-based non-governmental organization, to help finance a mangrove rehabilitation project in the Philippines, which has replanted 1.9 million saplings over a total area of 160 hectares in Negros Occidental, Palawan and Mindanao.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken the lead in the fight to preserve these neglected forests and launched a series of rehabilitation programmes in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. Last October, 97 Japanese volunteers sponsored by OISCA-International flew to Indonesia and to the damaged coastal area near Kamal Muara to initiate a mangrove afforestation project. Bringing large bundles of mangrove saplings they had cultivated for replanting, the volunteers and local youths marched into the mud-flats, often sinking into mud up to their waists, in order to plant an initial batch of 5,000 trees. They hope the trees will survive to attract birds, fish and other wildlife to the replenished salt water/fresh water environment.

OISCA-International and other NGOs are also developing environmental education campaigns to enlighten villagers, their leaders and supporters from national governments as to the benefits of maintaining the mangrove swamps. These NGOs are convinced that promoting better community understanding of the need for sustainable development of these natural resources is the key to the long-term survival of these fragile ecosystems.

But protection of the vanishing mangrove forests will also require changes in consumer demand. Policy-makers in Japan,

by far the world's largest importer of tropical logs and timber, should clearly understand this. Japanese forest conservationist Yoichi Kuroda, co-author of *Timber from the South Seas*, has proposed that Japan take urgent steps to discourage the trade and to stop official and private financing likely to damage tropical woodlands and their environments, particularly in South-East Asia.

One welcome development in Japan was the establishment in Okinawa last year of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems. It will promote the conservation of mangroves and guide and monitor their wiser utilization. ■

Toshihiro Nakano is vice president of OISCA-International, a Tokyo-based NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Costa Rica

Logging with a scalpel

By Karen Cheney

San José—While the forests of this small country are being cleared at a rate of 74,000 to 99,000 acres a year, one forward-thinking logging company has begun an innovative project to sustain the life of the forests.

Portico, a company that builds and exports high-quality doors made of *caobilla* (mahogany), describes its logging as "minor surgery". The company takes out one tree per acre every 15 years.

Unlike most logging companies, which buy wood from private land-owners who practise clear-cutting methods, Portico owns and manages its own forests on the Atlantic coast in north-eastern Costa Rica.

Before beginning logging operations, the company conducts an extensive study to plan access routes through naturally clear areas and to mark those trees that will be cut. Certain shade trees are left to protect the forest from too much light, and seed trees are preserved to contribute to the natural regeneration of *caobilla*.

Many ecologists, as well as Costa Rica's minister of natural resources, Hernán Bravo, speak glowingly of the company's project. They describe it as a windfall both for worldwide tropical rainforest conservation efforts and for Third World countries dependent on the exploitation of natural resources.

"Not all of these countries will have the luxury of setting aside parks for protection, so we must come up with alternatives," says Gary Hartshorn, who worked in Costa Rica for 20 years with the Tropical Science Center and is now vice president of Conservation Sciences for the World Wildlife Fund.

Hartshorn believes Portico is a valid alternative. "Managed forests are an effective

conservation project," he says, explaining that many government-sponsored national parks fail because of lack of funding to develop and protect them.

"One of the major problems in north-east Costa Rica is that Barra del Colorado [a state wildlife refuge] is a paper park," says Hartshorn, describing the lack of protection that has led to poaching and road construction in the refuge. A study by Costa Rica's National Biodiversity Institute found more wildlife on Portico's land than in the neighbouring refuge.

"National parks in themselves don't conserve biodiversity," agrees Larry Harris, professor at the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation. "I believe it's possible to exploit a forest and maintain nature."

Portico makes even bolder claims. "Our thesis is that with present technology, a managed forest not only survives, the entire ecosystem is strengthened," says the company's outspoken president, Mario Barrenechea. "You can actually encourage the natural process by taking out the old trees," he says. "The less you touch the forest doesn't mean the better."

This assertion has brought both attention and criticism to Portico, which has been forced to provide weekly tours into its forests for sceptical ecologists and government officials.

On a recent tour, visitors walked through a Portico forest that was cut three years ago and will not be cut again for 12 years. The visitors had to look hard to find any tree stumps and they could make out only faint traces of a now overgrown logging path. The area looked untouched. ■

*South-North News Service
Karen Cheney is a reporter for the Tico Times in San José, Costa Rica.*

Philippines

Custody battle over muppets

By Abby Tan

Manila—In an abandoned lumberyard, with weeds and rusty tin cans lying around, stands a rickety structure. The klieg lights are the only indication that this is a television studio where, almost bare of props but littered with worn-out furniture, a world-class children's television programme named *Batibot* is created.

Batibot is a Filipino offshoot of a home-grown version of Sesame Street called *Sesame!* that was originally co-produced by Filipinos and the New York-based Children's Television Workshop (CTW) in 1983. Last June *Batibot* won the top prize in the Prix Jeunesse International in Munich, the Oscar equivalent of children's programmes. But the euphoria on the set was shortlived.

The problem lies in two *Batibot* characters, a Tagalog-speaking turtle called Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing, a chattering monkey. Both characters, now well-loved among Filipino children, were created by CTW for *Sesame!* as the local production's counterparts to Big Bird and Kermit the Frog.

Batibot producer Lydia Benitez-Brown received a terse letter last September from CTW in New York requesting that *Batibot* "cease and desist" using Pong and Kiko. The two muppets, says Brown, were loaned to *Batibot* without a formal agreement after *Sesame!* ceased production in 1984.

Now Brown and her small staff are fighting very hard to keep Pong and Kiko. They are going to their audience, the Filipino children, to gather one million signatures to put public pressure on CTW to allow them to keep the characters on local television.

Brown admits she stands on very shaky legal ground over the custody of Pong and Kiko. All muppets created by CTW belong to them in perpetuity in a global copyright clause.

The main reason that CTW has requested that they cease using the characters, says Elizabeth Martin, director of informa-



Producer Lydia Benitez-Brown, here with muppets Kiko Matsing and Pong Pagong, is hoping that she will be given the rights to use the popular characters in her programme, *Batibot*.

tion, is that Brown is marketing *Batibot* elsewhere in Asia in direct competition with CTW's *Sesame Street*.

Brown acknowledges that CTW reacted when it apparently found out she was negotiating with Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia, a new private channel in Jakarta, to produce a bahasa Indonesia language version of *Batibot*.

In the original *Sesame!* programme deal in 1983, the Filipino producers, backed by their government, paid CTW \$1 million in the first year and \$375,000 the second year in licensing fees.

With the help of CTW, Pong and Kiko were created. Although CTW thought the turtle too clumsy, Brown insisted the turtle and the monkey were part of Philippine folklore described by its national hero, Jose Rizal. These are characters Filipino children can easily identify.

The muppet surrogates Pong and Kiko, made of rattan and foam, turned out to be a

big hit with Filipino pre-schoolers. Indeed, *Batibot* continues with the number one rating for children's programmes, with 200,000 television households watching it each day.

However, back in 1984, when the economy went into recession, the Filipino

The simple truth is we can't afford to give them back.

producers could no longer pay licensing fees and the contract with CTW ended. As Brown was determined not to waste the puppetry technology learned to produce a local show, she started *Batibot* without any formal agreement with CTW.

What Brown has done is to recycle *Batibot* for the past six years. New materials are inserted into old tapes to be viewed again and again by Filipino children.

CTW is demanding that Pong and

Kiko be taken out of the old tapes.

"Without Pong and Kiko, our library of six years will be useless to us," Brown complains.

Now that CTW wants both muppets back, Brown is claiming *Batibot* became a separate Filipino production after its contract with CTW expired. "They knew for six years we were using them," Brown says. "They did not implement their rights. What we are trying to do now is to appeal to them on behalf of the children of the Philippines."

The producers of *Batibot* are fighting to keep Pong and Kiko also because of a funding problem. The show has no funds, Brown laments, and will probably never become commercially viable on its own. It receives only occasional government subsidies and other small grants. It tapes only when there is money. Each show costs \$2,000 to produce, compared to *Sesame Street*'s \$20,000 per episode, according to Brown.

What are the alternatives that Brown sees? "I suppose we can create new characters [to get out of the legal bind]," says Brown, "but Pong and Kiko represent the objective we had."

Brown is using arguments like the "spirit" and "objective" of education to fight off CTW. She says: "We tell them that the spirit of *Sesame Street* is not reflected in their action. The objective of *Sesame Street* is education. We have never veered away from that. We have never commercialized Pong and Kiko to sell any product. The simple truth is we can't afford to give them back."

Money problems forced *Batibot* to get funding from the Filipino-Chinese community to produce a Fukien version. The programme does not teach the children to speak the dialect, Brown says, but creates an interest and awareness of a language spoken in many Filipino-Chinese homes.

Brown would like to co-produce *Batibot* in other languages in the region to generate income, but that plan has been stalled by CTW. Her only recourse is publicly to pressure CTW, arguing that it is the children's welfare that counts. ■

Abby Tan is a Singaporean journalist specializing in economic and political affairs. She has been based in Manila since 1977.

India

Cable war news attracts new viewers

By Mahesh Unival

New Delhi—Small cable television companies all over India have been scrambling to meet booming demand for the Gulf war coverage offered by the United States-based Cable News Network, better known as CNN. Many fly-by-night cable operators with dishes for receiving round-the-clock CNN satellite transmissions have been trying to hook up hundreds of homes with the promise of the news service.

Even the Indian prime minister's office and the foreign ministry here have monitored the conflict via CNN.

But as more Indians view the war through CNN's eyes, many here feel it provides a hi-tech package for American propaganda and there are warnings that foreign broadcasts may rule the airwaves and massage viewers with alien messages.

With more and more people scrambling to catch CNN from the sky, officials here say the government, surprised by the sudden increase in foreign coverage of an event of national importance, is assessing the impact of foreign telecasts. The ready availability of news, in some ways more sophisticatedly packaged than national

broadcasts, raises serious questions regarding India's broadcasting policies.

There are also reports that Indian subscribers will soon be able to pick up signals from other satellite stations like "Asiasat" and "Worldnet" creating more headaches for bureaucrats asked to frame policies in line with India's antiquated media laws.

Since January, India has entered the global electronic village piggybacking on several little-known companies that have cashed in on Operation Desert Storm. Operators are canvassing door-to-door subscriptions in Indian cities and tempting viewers to jump on the cable television bandwagon at rates varying between \$15-\$45 a month.

In one of New Delhi's swank residential areas, a company which sprouted after the war began has been working round the clock to wire living rooms to the "hottest show in the world".

A restaurant in the same area is swamped by guests at night wanting to catch CNN and the Gulf war while they chomp shish kebabs and chicken curries.

Some media critics argue that unrestricted entry of cable television can lead to foreign "taste transfers", selling not only products but views of the world.

But officials say jamming the satellite

telecasts is not easy. Government-appointed national committees, set up two years ago to decide whether to legalize or ban satellite and cable television, recommended in February that only pre-recorded foreign programmes be distributed in India.

The committees say that foreign television broadcasts should be cleared by the central board of film certification to prevent "disinformation" through foreign networks.

But the government is still to announce its policy for cable television networks. A bill passed last year by parliament to promote autonomy on India's state-run television and radio system did not cover new raiders in the sky.

Operators offering their own cable network to clusters of households say the government can never monitor telecasts. "The government is fighting a losing battle," says Ishwari Bajpai who runs a small television company here.

Circumventing outdated government controls, small rent-a-garage entrepreneurs have jumped into the fray, staking out consumer territories and selling foreign television service to news-hungry viewers brought up on a highly controlled diet of information.

Some companies are appointing area franchises across the country and are sup-

plying dish antennae and cable television systems at up to \$10,000 each.

Catvision Products Limited, a Delhi-based company which claims to be the exclusive licensee for CNN in India, has installed nearly 250 dish antennae. Nearly all the major hotels in India have wired their rooms to the world via cable television.

With satellite television spreading like fire, experts say Indian television will have to change its dowdy image to survive.

The government-appointed committees have said that India must use television to foster values like social justice and secularism. But critics fear foreign telecasts may make Indian television redundant, specially in urban areas where the medium is only seen for entertainment and not education.

Unlike the print media, India's visual media has been kept on a tight leash. Television and radio faithfully echo their masters' voices despite demands for their independence.

But like all else in this country's great consumer market, the urban rich will tune in to CNN and Asiasat while the other half of this nation's enormous middle class will carry on watching their favorite Indian soap operas. ■

IPS

Drug-wary Colombians eye hypnotic toffees

By Peter Nares

Bogotá—Long-distance buses in Colombia carry signs warning people not to accept refreshments, liquor and sweets offered by strangers. Colombians take the warning seriously.

They know that even an innocent toffee offered by a fellow-traveller could be drugged with scopolamine—or *burundanga*, as the powerful, hypnotic drug is known locally.

In recent years there have been more than 6,000 cases of scopolamine intoxication in the country's larger cities. In several instances the alkaloid has caused death or permanent disability.

Normally scopolamine poisoning is not fatal. In most cases on record people given the drug are swiftly reduced to a helpless trance, as if by hypnosis, and their power to resist is obliterated.

In this zombie-like state they can be manipulated at will by criminals and robbed with ease in full view of the public without arousing suspicion.

Early one morning, recently, María Jiménez, a shopowner in the western city of Cali, left home in a fashionable middle-class district and was about to enter her car when a man approached her. He handed her a sheet of paper—and that is the last thing Jiménez remembers.

She awoke 24 hours later in a Cali clinic. A passing driver had found her sit-



As if they did not have enough drug problems, Colombians now must worry about their favourite snacks because of burundangueros.

ting by a road in a state of amnesia. When Jiménez returned home, she found it had been stripped of everything of value. The case remains unsolved, partly because Jiménez cannot remember the appearance of the thief who approached her. Amnesia is another characteristic of scopolamine intoxication.

As in so many cases, it is still a mystery how the thief administered scopolamine to Jiménez. *Burundangueros*, as the thieves are dubbed, catch people offguard for a second or two in the street or in buses and give them a drugged refreshment. Some thieves jab their victims with a syringe filled with an anaesthetic. Other cases report the use of a paralysing gas spray, drugged toffees and soft drinks. Scopolamine began to

attract the attention of Colombian doctors 25 years ago after a party of boy scouts camped out in the hills near Bogotá. One ate the fruit of a wild plant and within minutes began acting crazed. His face turned red and his speech was incoherent.

Doctors discovered he had eaten the fruit of the Andean plant, nicknamed the *borrachero*, which contains scopolamine. Criminals began to harvest the plant and isolate its alkaloid element. Because the drug can make people aggressive, thieves reportedly administer scopolamine mixed with tranquilizers. Today it is available on the black market at modest prices.

A favourite haunt of the *burundangueros* are the street-corner refreshment stalls, redlight districts and bus stations. Motorists often stop their vehicles at the stalls to buy a drink or snack and when they recover, find both their cars and wallets have vanished. A popular television comedian, Fercho, lost his car this way.

Usually, victims recover within 24 hours to a week. But not always. One young woman, drugged on a bus journey to the western city of Pasto, died. Even an average dose can result in death if the drug is ingested by the elderly, diabetics or people with coronary ailments.

Crime aside, scopolamine—or hyoscine as it is also called—is used by doctors for its hypnotic powers. In the treatment of patients, it is often combined with morphine. But when abused, the alkaloid can cause psychiatric disorders.

The *borrachero* plant is not exclusive to Colombia, but it seems, thus far, to be the only country in which scopolamine is used for criminal purposes. ■

Peter Nares, a British freelance journalist based in Bogotá, Colombia, specializes in political and economic subjects.

When does adoption become trafficking?

Santiago—A poor, married couple recently made the front pages of Santiago's leading dailies, saying they gave away their two children to an Italian couple who had come to Chile in search of children

By Alejandra Courtes

to adopt. A judge had actually authorized this "hand-over" of the children on the grounds that they had in effect been abandoned by the parents. It turned out that the parents, street vendors in the capital, had not wanted to give up their children, who had been residing in a children's home in Concepción, a city 600 kilometres south of Santiago. Although the couple managed to visit the children every two weeks at the home, they lost their rights as parents. Charges and countercharges were exchanged, bringing the whole process of adoption here into question.

Although the children from this South American country now reside legally with their adoptive family in Italy, the story echoed concerns all over Latin America where a brisk adoption trade flourishes, not always with the tightest controls.

The dramatic case raised questions regarding a more serious and tragic situation: the "blackmarket" trafficking of babies born in Chile's extensive *poblaciones*, or poor neighbourhoods.

The National Minors Service (Sename) is the government body that runs most of the country's orphanages for abandoned children, or those from extremely poor families.

Ximena Toro, head of Sename's adoption department, says that there are organized child trafficking mafias who use a network of *dateros*, or informants, who keep an eye out for vulnerable young pregnant women in poor urban areas who are willing to hand over their babies for money. "Social workers, nurses, doctors and lawyers," says Toro, "are also involved."

"Women don't see their babies in a mercenary way," says Eliana Bravo, who works in San Bernardo, one of Santiago's poor southern districts. "It is just that they eventually succumb to the psychological pressures of having to bring up a child in conditions of misery."

"I know some of my colleagues are involved in child trafficking," she adds. "It's very painful and frustrating for me, but there are so many abandoned children. There are even 13-year-old mothers who are not fit to take care of their babies."

Toro explains that existing adoption laws allow foreigners to adopt Chilean children, provided the new parents fulfil the basic requirements of moral and cultural rectitude and financial solvency.

"At present we have over 600 formal requests from Chilean couples wishing to adopt a child, and about 300 from foreign couples. We don't have any children to offer them because most are taken out of the country by the traffickers," says Toro.

Sename is responsible for some 12,000 children in "irregular" situations, and has been widely criticized for delaying and blocking requests for adoption.

"We cannot allow children to be taken out of the country just because the parents are alcoholics or prostitutes, or because they suffer from illnesses like multiple sclerosis. Moreover, Chile needs its children. That's why we try to promote local adoptions. There are no spare children here," argues Toro.

Foreign demand for Chilean children is nothing new. The countries where they are most in demand are Italy, France, Australia, Canada and the United States. About 254 Chilean children went to the United States alone in 1989.

A major concern regarding the illegal trafficking of children, and one which particularly worries the professionals who work with them, is the possibility that adoption may not

be the only motive for this trade. Some fear that children may be used for prostitution or even for organ transplants.

To date there is no evidence to show that children adopted by foreign couples are being used for these purposes. A worker who wishes to remain anonymous says he has been doing legal work for adoptions for over 30 years and is certain of the well-being of his clients' adopted babies.



These kids in a poor neighbourhood in Santiago run the risk of being abandoned by their parents. Authorities are concerned that some may also be falling prey to child traffickers.

"I always keep in touch with the adopted children of my clients. Only a few days ago I was in Australia to meet with 23 couples and their children. It was very moving," he says.

However, there is no monitoring possible of the children who leave the country illegally. It is believed that traffickers charge as

much as \$10,000 per child.

Lientur Escobar, a judge at the seventh criminal court, feels that Chile's adoption laws need to be reformed to eliminate child trafficking.

Says Escobar, "I think we need a major national meeting of all government bodies involved with mothers and children, and judges who would be advised by psychologists and sociologists."

"Most mothers hand their children over because they're burdened with problems, others because they think their children will be living in paradise. But the children who are sold, whether for a packet of food or for \$500, have no chance of deciding for themselves." ■

Poor vs. poor, war after war

Continued from page 1



and domestic tranquility are necessary for economic well-being. Out of conflict comes poverty. Nothing so undermines the common living standard as war and domestic contention. And in support of conflict, large and needed resources are diverted into weapons and other military equipment.

In military conflict over the centuries, it is the poor who have been available, not always unwillingly, for armed demise. Having little else to offer, they give their lives for God and country.

In the industrial countries, economic development, as a matter of total inevitability, brings into existence a very large number of people willing and able to speak to their own interest. Writers, artists, industrial managers, scientists, engineers, journalists, professors and students are all brought into being, along with the considerable number aspiring to the robes of personal statesmanship. All seek, indeed demand, to be heard.

In contrast, the poor and often illiterate masses of the poor country have no voice. Oppression is practical and thus a given. In reaction to this oppression then comes the conflict between those who seek to perpetuate it

and those who seek escape therefrom. And from illiteracy and ignorance, one cannot doubt, comes the ethnic, religious and national passion that education tempers and diminishes and economic comfort does much to exclude. And excluded also are the leaders who play to the illiterate and the impoverished.

For thousands of years past, back to Rome, to Alexander, Darius, the Mongols and beyond, international conflict has been undertaken for territorial subjugation and possession. This was taken for granted, and it was a generally rewarding enterprise for the victor. He acquired land and its revenues, other natural resources and manpower that could be compelled or converted to his use.

In World War II, for example, the Japanese had no obvious difficulty in administering the plantation and peasant economy of the Philippines. At the end of the war, I helped to interrogate the high Nazis and their generals as they came into our custody. One

Economic assistance—a solid flow of economic resources from the rich to the poor—is basic to hope for economic improvement in the poor countries.

of the latter, colonel general Alfred Jodl, said, in protesting our somewhat severe attitude, "You are trying to kill Germany. We want to fight wars in the old ways and give up a province or two when we lose." World War I was, in

fact, the last great conflict where, as between industrial powers, this ancient purpose of war had relevance.

Agricultural and mineral wealth can be captured, occupied and used, while industrial wealth cannot. On the contrary, it hangs as an albatross around the neck of the victor.

Such was our experience in Germany after World War II, as also in Japan. Our aim was to get those economies back under German and Japanese direction as quickly as possible. Their complex of industry was not for us to guide, direct or manage. Had they been largely peasant economies, we would have been under no such compulsion.

We are, I believe, coming to accept, at least subjectively, that industrial states, though they can be conquered, cannot be possessed. One yearns to see the reality penetrate that hard fabric that protects the professional foreign policy and military mind.

The developments of the past months have seen one particular case: the simple business of oil extraction the Iraqis could rudely take over in Kuwait. Were Kuwait an industrial economy in all its modern complexity, they could not possibly hope to do so.

I support the broad and constructive United Nations view that one country cannot with impunity seize another and smaller state. But I do not urge war as the response. Otherwise here again, as before and elsewhere, it is the poor killing the poor. Of this let all the more fortunate be aware.

There remains to be considered the very urgent and practical question as to what policy should be. If we accept that poverty is the source of oppression and conflict, what can the more fortunate countries do? The an-

swer is obvious; only winning acceptance of the obvious is difficult. We must accept that the only practical answer to privation is help from the rich countries to the poor.

I do believe that under the auspices of a stronger United Nations we should have a much improved mediating machinery, notably for internal conflict, along with the means and willingness for the requisite enforcement. Now we must ask if the world should stand by and observe with detachment the human agony from internal conflict.

The ultimate remedy lies in economic improvement and in life that is an agreeable alternative to death. To this end, the resources which could be released from military confrontation must go in worthwhile amount to the poor lands. And it is urgent that they not go in company with the export of weapons and aid that in the past has been the scandalous endowment of the rich countries to the poor.

And education, let us not forget, is the only protection against the ignorant leader who inspires to conflict, just as well-being is the essential and visibly inescapable alternative to acceptance of dismemberment and death.

Let no one be diverted from the ultimate and inescapable need. Economic assistance—a solid flow of economic resources from the rich to the poor—is basic to hope for economic improvement in the poor countries. It is what the rich can do for the poor—their only effective course of action.

And alone from economic progress comes the peace and tranquility that are now the good fortune of the more affluent lands. Perhaps one reason that economic determinism is at least slightly in disfavour is the desire to avoid this inevitably expensive conclusion. Let the point be clear: nothing can be accomplished for peace in the poor and turbulent world at no cost. ■

John Kenneth Galbraith is professor of economics at Harvard University. This essay is adapted from his address to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in November.

Saving the Cold War peace dividend

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the war in the Persian Gulf, speculation about the fate of the "peace dividend" has intensified. The end of the Cold War and progress in disarmament negotiations have raised

By Jim Wurst

the possibility of enormous savings as public funds are transferred from military to social uses. The United Nations estimates that up to \$480 billion by the turn of the century could be made available for development investments. While the fate of the peace dividend has been placed in doubt since the Gulf war, it should stay high on the international agenda.

The fate of the peace dividend lies with governments, not in the sands of the Gulf region. Approximately \$600 billion of the \$950 billion spent on the military worldwide each year is spent by the superpowers and European countries for use in Europe, thus dismantling the military structures of the Cold War remains the key to a peace dividend.

The on-going negotiations between the USSR and the United States aimed at reducing nuclear weapons will not change the financial equation much since nuclear weapons make up a relatively small part of the total military budget. Conventional forces—troops, tanks, artillery—are the most costly items.

The recent treaty on conventional forces in Europe (CFE) cuts the non-

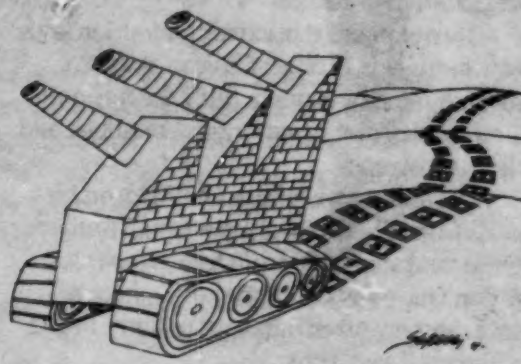
nuclear forces of member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and of the Warsaw Pact, thus freeing up still uncounted billions of dollars. It will be the choice of those governments whether to use that money for development (both at home and abroad) or for climbing out of the debt trap they dug over the last two decades building up massive military machines.

Mahbub ul Haq, an economist and special advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), estimates that "under various scenarios, the potential peace dividend could be about \$300 billion in the industrialized societies and around \$180 billion in the Third World by the year 2000". He says a large part of this money could come from freezes (not even reductions) in military spending. Thus any actual reductions in military spending would ensure that there would be money available for development worldwide.

This view is borne out by the new United States Defense Department proposed budget which, despite the Persian Gulf war, shows no significant increase in military outlays. The cost of Desert Storm is not included, but the proposal also does not include much of the savings possible from European and superpower arms control. If the political will is there to make those cuts and to pay for the war from military rather than social programmes, the peace dividend can be achieved.

Reductions in military spending must be accompanied by the replace-

ment of the Cold War structures of massive firepower and distrust with new structures of "collective security" envisioned in the United Nations Charter. Those structures could oversee reductions in arms purchases, promotion of



regional disarmament and security arrangements, international peace-keeping operations, and bans on (or non-proliferation regimes for) mass destruction weapons.

Implementation of these would free resources for the peace dividend. The United Nations is deeply involved in promoting these goals. Besides peace-keeping operations, the organization is also a source of information on and a potential implementor for these new structures. For example, the UN secretary-general recently released a report on creating a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone, which was unanimously endorsed by the forty-fifth General Assembly. Such a zone would have a far-reaching impact on the post-war security structures that

would need to emphasize mutual—rather than one-sided—military cuts in order to avoid laying the groundwork for a new conflict.

Plans are also under consideration for a United Nations role in verifying arms control agreements and publishing information on military subjects such as arms transfers, military budgets and weapons stock.

The peace dividend is an immediate and a long-term goal. The immediate goals are to reduce military expenditures in the North through arms control and new European security arrangements and to eliminate the corresponding Cold War structures in the South so that the money is freed in the first place.

The long-term goal is to create and strengthen global and regional cooperative security structures through the United Nations and regional bodies such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Organization of African Unity. Now that disarmament is underway in the North, efforts to reduce the war machines in the South should be stepped up. Every effort should be made to discourage the transfer of weaponry from the European arsenals to Third World countries. Only with global disarmament can the peace dividend be used to the maximum advantage for developed and developing countries alike. ■

Jim Wurst is a journalist covering disarmament and security issues at the United Nations.

Enhanced United Nations role in Africa?

By Michael Njume-Ebong

The United Nations Charter, when written in 1945, set for its primary objective The maintenance of international peace and security. Domestic conflicts were by and large considered to be outside the jurisdiction of the Charter. Recently, however, we have seen evidence of a more dynamic and generous application of the Charter's provisions for the direct benefit and well-being of "the peoples of the United Nations".

The superintendence of Namibian independence by the United Nations and its electoral assistance to Nicaragua and Haiti are good examples of successful initiatives. The Organization has also taken on an active mediation role in the Salvadoran and Western Sahara conflicts. Another plan under consideration calls for the establishment of a temporary United Nations administration in Cambodia.

These efforts together symbolize a most welcome new trend to use the global authority and experience of the Organization in the settlement of essentially internal conflicts.

On the African scene, governments might wish to tap into this new trend by requesting an enhanced United Nations role in securing domestic peace and security for their region which, more than any other region in the world, is the theatre of civil wars, where political institutions are the most fragile and the management of national sovereignty visibly the most intractable.

Obviously, the national protagonists in many internal conflicts might balk at external interference, however disinterested, and African governments have genuine reasons to be finicky on their hard-won independence. Yet a general consensus seems to be emerging that the present travails of Africa do dictate a new radical departure. Being the premier guarantor under international law of



Over 5,000 United Nations soldiers, police and civilians were dispatched to Namibia to oversee that country's long-delayed transition to independence.

the sovereignty of its member states, especially of those small and weak, the United Nations is ideally placed to create the indispensable climate for such a new departure by strengthening the continent's domestic peace and security, and the legitimate base of its political leaderships.

The United Nations could initially address the burning need to halt the civil wars in Angola, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Chad. In Liberia, a West African peace-keeping force is already in place but, elsewhere, the search for solutions has been feeble and limited to diverse initiatives by individual voluntary mediators.

Clearly, the United Nations has the necessary authority, strengthened by its neutrality, as well as the diplomatic means and the multicultural experience, to mediate and resolve these conflicts and to guarantee a durable peace.

"There is not, and there cannot be, an adversarial relation between the United Nations and any member state," secretary-general Javier Pérez de

Cuellar observes. "In situations of conflict, only the procedures of multilateralism as developed and employed by the United Nations can offer justice and dignified disengagement to the parties involved and their supporters."

Africa's civil wars represent a significant drain on international assistance support as well as on international humanitarian aid. For example, emergency relief assistance to war victims—particularly to famished populations and refugees—is estimated at close to \$1 billion annually, from all sources. Development programmes in the war-affected countries usually fall victim to infrastructural damage and frequent government changes. Yet just a small percentage of international resources now flowing to war victims could suffice to establish the conditions and measures for a lasting resolution of these conflicts.

At a more general level the United Nations could tackle the root causes of Africa's civil wars, which stem from the region's extreme political and economic fragility, born of the ongoing profound metamorphosis from a pre-colonial

society to a post-colonial cultural symbiosis and institutional stability still to be achieved. Even the most dexterous political alchemist would shudder at the immense task of managing this transition by seeking to weld into coherent policies the region's often conflicting elements of native and inherited European value structures or its numerous centrifugal and mutually suspicious ethnic groups.

Some countries deserve credit for having managed the transition so far so well. Other countries however are still far from the mark of internally self-sustaining stability and domestically accountable governance, without which socio-economic development efforts might continue to run aground, like Sisyphian labours.

Aspiring to systems of government that are neither a rehash of their traditional political culture nor a simple graft of alien concepts and practices, African governments might be best advised to draw upon the universal political norms and constitutional experience of the United Nations, which could guide and guarantee the success of their political reform endeavours.

An opportunity for such a role can now be seen in the ground swell of popular movements in many countries for a more liberal, transparent and motivating political architecture, such that wills and moulds the development process. Embattled African governments are rewriting constitutions and introducing a stream of democratic reforms. Because these reforms may well hold the key to the long-awaited *pax Africana* and the start of genuine development, they cry out for the support of the United Nations. ■

Michael Njume-Ebong, a national of Cameroon, is research officer in the secretariat of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit. He returned recently from a four-year assignment in Africa with the World Health Organization.

Human rights and development

By Taufik Darusman

In many developing countries, the United Nations has reinforced its posture as an agent for development and tackles problems by going to their very roots for solution. It is encouraging that the United Nations continues to pursue this policy of confronting underlying poverty. I believe human rights should be a key element in this underlying basis for progress.

In my country, Indonesia, we have pursued this policy with the help of the United Nations, with notable successes in several areas. In particular, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has complemented our efforts for progress and the government's five-year plans since the early 1970s.

With a remarkable degree of enthusiasm, UNDP has helped expand the scope of participation by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector at large in the nation's collective effort to improve living standards. However, the future of these efforts is uncertain.

During a recent discussion with a high-ranking UNDP official in New York, I asked whether UNDP, in

providing assistance, considered the human rights record of a recipient country in its decision-making process. Replying negatively, he explained: "Should that be the case, we would have to halve our worldwide operations."

Whether one likes it or not, the United Nations and its agencies function as a sort of "development clearing house". The system has funds at its disposal and possesses authority to decide who should be funded and who not. What should be counted on is the higher sense of discretion demonstrated by those directly involved.

The United Nations is vested with the right to decide how to dispense development assistance and to ascertain the level of democracy that recipient countries have achieved. But, at the same time, it should be the moral responsibility of the Organization to consider whether it is in the overall long-term interest of such recipient countries to have their needs for assistance reviewed as they are reflected in the mirror of human rights records.

The observance of human rights and the promotion of development "weave the fabric of peace", according

to United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuellar. "If one of these strands is removed," he elaborates, "the tissue will unravel."

Whether one likes it or not, the United Nations functions as a development clearing house and possesses authority to decide who should be funded and who not.

Since its inception almost half a century ago, the United Nations has engaged itself in the promotion of all fundamental rights and freedoms and in elaborating universally acceptable instruments.

This year, for example, marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Right to Development. A historic milestone, it for the first time laid what the secretary-general termed as "a basis for the integration of human rights concepts into the planning, execution and evaluation of development

projects". This declaration has "both strengthened and secured" universal respect for human rights and the effectiveness of these projects.

Again in the words of the secretary-general, inequality in all its manifestations "has always been one of the most contentious issues in all societies".

The gulf between wealth and poverty, affluence and deprivation, and liberty and subjugation, must be bridged and then removed. Otherwise, he says, "social upheaval and revolutionary change is likely. Governments everywhere have to watch the measure of discontent." Without respect for human rights, there may hardly be progress in economic and social development.

The United Nations should perhaps give these considerations their rightful place in its global development agenda for the twenty-first century. ■

Taufik Darusman, a national of Indonesia, is executive editor of the Jakarta daily newspaper Media Indonesia.

Christian Aid organizes debt cancellation drive

A leading British church aid agency has launched a campaign to persuade the country's four largest banks—Barclays, Midland, Lloyds and Natwest—to cancel debts owed by poor Third World countries.

Christian Aid, the official aid agency of British and Irish churches, said hundreds of its supporters have written to bank managers to call for the cancellation of these debts.

"The campaign is off to a flying start and we have had to order a reprint of our information pack," Paul Tayler, Christian Aid's head of finance, said in the latest issue of the bi-monthly *Christian Aid News*.

The Christian Aid campaign is being supported by the World Development Movement, a London-based body which has assisted some 150 members of parliament to launch an appeal demanding government action on Third World poverty and environmental problems. Noting that Africa had to make nearly \$12 billion in debt repayments last year, Paul Boateng, economic affairs spokesperson for the Labour Party, said Britain must "take the lead to achieve international agreement to cut debt".

Christian Aid says its campaign aims to show senior bankers, politicians and international financiers the strength of public support for Third World debt cancellation.

Moyiga Nduru/IPS

Consumer rights

On 15 March, World Consumer Rights Day will be celebrated for the ninth consecutive year. As in the past, consumer organizations will observe the day by drawing attention to specific issues or problems which have a direct bearing on consumer rights. Special campaigns, press conferences, public exhibitions, workshops, street events and other local initiatives will be planned and carried out. Some initiatives will continue beyond 15 March, forming the basis for long-term work.

The theme chosen by IOCU for World Consumer Rights Day 1991 is the right to consumer protection, as recognized and promoted by one of the most important documents for the world consumer movement, the *United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection*.

Unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 April 1985, the Guidelines were created in response to the growing international character of business practices and heightened recognition of the role of consumer protection in economic and social development. Passage of the Guidelines represented a substantial triumph for the world consumer movement.

The Guidelines provide a framework for governments to use in elaborating and strengthening appropriate policies and legislation for consumer protection. They also urge that sufficient controls be placed on business—both domestic and foreign—to deal honestly with consumers.

Because of the importance of further progress on the Guidelines, IOCU has produced a World Consumer Rights Day "action kit" on this theme. Sent out to all IOCU members last November, the kit contains a series of articles and specific suggestions for activities and involvement by consumer groups, both on World

Consumer Rights Day and throughout the year.

For more information contact IOCU Regional Office for Europe & North America (IOCU-ROENA), Emmastraat 9, 2595 EG The Hague, Netherlands; Tel. (+31-70) 3476331, Fax (+31-70) 3834976, Telex 33561.

Working effectively with the poor

In the book *Doing Development: Government, NGOs and the Rural Poor in Asia*, more than 16 eminent development experts in Asia address the dilemma of involving the poorest of the poor in their own development.

The essays illustrate the issues that come up when NGOs and governments try to work together for the rural poor in South and Southeast Asia. The material includes experiences of voluntary agencies in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. Some themes covered are participatory action research, social forestry, legal rights for women, community rehabilitation, overthrowing money lenders, sustainable agriculture, and even a trainers' guide to "Good Manners with the Rural Poor".

In his afterword, Richard Holloway, editor and presently PACT's Bangladesh programme manager, suggests some ways in which NGOs and governments can collaborate to promote development of the poor.

Both government and NGO staff will find the articles informative. While cases have been drawn from specific countries, they are illustrative of larger issues confronting all people doing development in Asia as well as in other regions.

For costs and to order contact: Earthscan Publications Ltd., 3 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1H 0DD.

Operation Lifeline

Humanitarianism Under Siege: A Critical Review of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

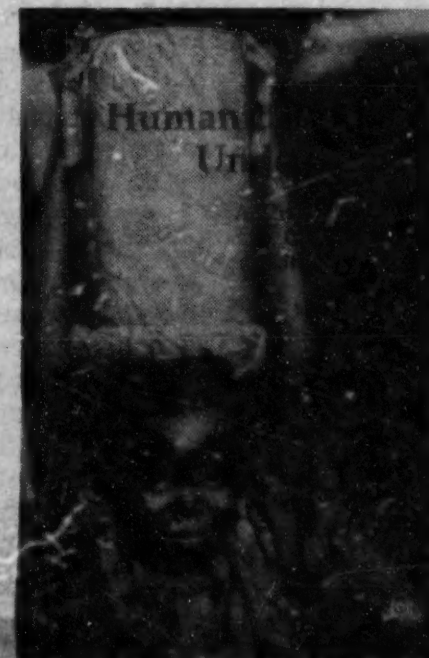
Larry Minear.
The Red Sea Press, 15 Industry

Court, Trenton, New Jersey, 08638, United States, and Bread for the World Institute on Hunger and Development, 802 Rhode Island Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20018, United States.

In March 1989, the international community launched a major relief effort to help civilians suffering needlessly from food deprivation in the Sudan's bloody civil war. It was an uphill battle from the start: against the rains, against political sabotage, against recurrent war and famine.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was a massive international relief effort which helped stave off disaster. Its success was due in large part to the agreement of the warring parties, the determination of aid agencies, the commitment of the international community, and the efforts of the Sudanese people themselves. Yet the initiative itself was not without problems and the civil war continues.

This book tells the story of humanitarian aid, of creative and des-



tructive politics, of elusive peace. Its meaning extends well beyond the Sudan as Operation Lifeline Sudan is seen by many who were involved in the effort as setting an institutional precedent for the principle of impartial humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict.

LATIN AMERICA

New Growth after "Lost Decade," says 1990 IDB Report

The 1980s were called Latin America's "lost decade," but policy reforms adopted to cope with economic crisis could bring renewed growth in the decade ahead, according to the Inter-American Development Bank's *Economic and Social Progress in Latin America: 1990 Report*.



New large format, hundreds of charts and graphs, and up-to-date economic information on 25 Latin American countries: the 1990 IDB Report.

This year's Report also includes:

- ✓ a 10-year overview of Latin American and Caribbean economies
- ✓ expert analysis of such problems as inflation and external debt
- ✓ up-to-date, country-by-country statistical information
- ✓ an expanded appendix with data on population, government finances, balance of payments, and more
- ✓ hundreds of charts and graphs
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Baltimore, MD 21211

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Books from the Inter-American Development Bank are now available from THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS



NGO Calendar

29 April-1 May 1991

InterAction Forum "Building a Worldwide NGO Movement: People, Participation and Policy", Loews Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland

NGOs, voluntary agencies, peoples' organizations, grassroots associations—together, these groups constitute an extraordinarily powerful global phenomenon: the convergence of individual organizations, outside of official government structures, which are now forming national, regional, and international coalitions.

InterAction in the United States, CCIC in Canada, ASINDES in Guatemala, PhilDHRRA in the Philippines, ANGOC in Asia, and FAVDO in Africa are increasingly familiar names and acronyms. This growing NGO global network possesses enormous potential to achieve positive change in the current world order. This year's 1991 InterAction Forum will examine key questions concerning this newly emerging force:

- What is the common vision that ties NGOs together?
- What are the strategic steps necessary to turn the current global web of NGOs into a worldwide movement for development, justice, and peace?
- What are the skills, tools, and resources necessary to build this NGO movement?
- What is the role of non-governmental organizations and what are the linkages between them and grassroots associations?
- What operational and policy implications does this emerging movement have for the specific activities of InterAction members?

For more information contact IOCU Regional Office for Europe & North America (IOCU-ROENA), Emmastraat 9, 2595 EG The Hague, Netherlands; Tel. (31-70) 3476331, Fax (31-70) 3834976, Telex 33561.

North-South dialogue continues

Cotonou—In the ongoing effort to improve co-operation between Northern and Southern NGOs, some 160 representatives from all over the world convened here in Benin in January to advance the debate about their differences—including those differences in the goals of NGOs in different regions of the Third World.

It was noted, for example, that Latin American NGOs tend to focus much of their work on opposing illegitimate authority; those of Asia are expanding their work towards poor populations and the integration of programmes; and African NGOs, which tend to be totally dependent financially on the North, are still searching for their identities, in particular as they relate to governments.

Confronted with this situation, the participants emphasized the necessity of genuine South-South collaboration, not only to

surmount the extensive communications problems which exist between Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also to devise exchange, apprenticeship and evaluation programmes among partner NGOs in the South.

The participants underlined the urgent need for clarification of professional codes and responsibilities in North-South relations. They noted that the "new rules of the game" between Northern and Southern NGOs were indispensable for making the transition from paternalism to real partnership. Some participants made the point that these new rules have not been greeted with the same enthusiasm by all the NGOs in the North.

The meeting also addressed the declining influence of Northern NGOs and it was suggested that they redefine their relations with other sectors such as unions and women's movements in order to reanchor North-South relations in reality, and to re-establish the character of development as a struggle for justice and solidarity.

Another session of "Les Rencontres de Cotonou", which was sponsored by the Fondation de France, a French NGO with a small international programme focusing on grassroots development with Southern partners, emphasized the need for all NGOs to work more in solidarity than in competition with one another, to shift from a project to process orientation, to mutual accountability and to building on the expertise of local people.

Results of the workshops were grouped into recommendations covering aspects of North/South partnership, the relationship of NGOs to grassroots associations, to governments, multilateral organizations, and to the media and other communications mechanisms, modes of financing, and the need for strengthened South-South relations. The full set of recommendations is available from: Fondation de France, 40 avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris, France.

Thierry Lemaesquier/NGLS Geneva

Green Nobel prize makes debut

For the first time "green Nobel" prizes will be presented to outstanding environmental achievers at World Environment Day celebrations at the United Nations in New York on 5 June.

Ever since 1972 and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Claes Nobel had believed there should be a Nobel Prize for environmental achievement. But when he approached the Nobel Foundation, he found they were constrained to the original scientific categories established by his great-uncle Alfred. The present Mr. Nobel then decided to create a separate but equally prestigious award, the Earth Prize.

The prizes will be given to individuals and on alternate years to

institutions, such as organizations, corporations or nations. This first year, 14 individuals will be honoured—seven young people and seven adults—in each of seven categories: food, pollution abatement, energy, conservation of nature and natural resources, population balance, earth security and earth ethics. Substantial financial awards accompany the prize in each category.

The sponsoring organization is United Earth, and a corporate partner, *Good Housekeeping* magazine, has provided office space. To keep the momentum going, United Earth plans to provide schools with educational materials related to the recipients' achievements and may even extend ongoing financial support to some winners, if necessary.

For more information contact Brooke Newell, president, United Earth, 959 Eighth Avenue, 5th floor, New York, NY 10019; telephone (212) 649-2487.



TVE sponsors film series

Developing Stories, a breakthrough series of six hour-long films by directors from developing countries, sponsored by Television for the Environment (TVE), promises to become a key broadcast event around the Earth Summit in 1992. The series, which includes films by top film-makers from Burkina Faso, Brazil, the Philippines, China, India and the Caribbean, is being prepared for broadcast throughout Europe and in developing regions. Copies of each of the films will be available for use and distribution by NGOs around the world.

According to TVE director Robert Lamb, the *Developing Stories* series is meant to act as a forum for film-makers from the South, conveying their ideas to governments, decision-makers and audiences throughout the world. "This is a film-led rather than issue-led series," Lamb explains.

"We are trying to get the best films so that we can reach the broadest audience."

Co-produced with the BBC, the series has been taken up as the cornerstone of the next "One World" event, following the remarkable success of the first "One World" week of broadcasts pioneered by the "One World" group of broadcasters throughout Europe last May.

"One World 2" has acquired new partners, including broadcasters from the South, Eastern Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union, as well as the original European group. The only broadcasters not yet committed are in the United States and Canada. Through TVE's *Moving Pictures* service the core "One World" programmes will also be distributed for simultaneous broadcast throughout the developing world.

TVE has spent last year fundraising for *Developing Stories*, raising over \$2 million. Invitations to submit ideas were sent to 112 film-makers in the South and Eastern Europe, eliciting over 75 proposals. The proposals that were accepted for funding include a fable set in Burkina Faso, a powerful investigation into the impact of the foreign debt on the environment in Brazil, a story about the impact of the green revolution in India, a look at the one-child family policy in China, a docudrama on the decline of a fishing family as the coral reefs are destroyed in the Philippines, and a look at how foreign media has overwhelmed the local culture in the Caribbean.

The response to the invitations was startling and revealing of priorities in the South. Not one of the original ideas submitted deals with the major environmental preoccupations of the North: deforestation, the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect. The message was clear. "The view of the environment in the South is much more tied up with the issues of poverty, debt and agriculture than with the classical views of conservation in the North," says Lamb. "These films present their preoccupations, which are more issues of survival." If the governments participating in the Earth Summit are to arrive at a genuine development blueprint for the 1990s and beyond, Lamb argues, it is essential that they take these priorities on board.

For more information contact Television Trust for the Environment, 46 Charlotte Street, London, W1P 1LX, United Kingdom.

Post-war mobilization in Persian Gulf

The urgent situation in the post-war Middle East requires rapid mobilization of relief and rehabilitation efforts in the region. On 28 February, UNICEF's executive director, James Grant, met in New York with representatives of 30 NGOs to discuss the needs and priorities of children and their families—in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as the one million evacuees in Jordan, Egypt, and other countries left without homes, jobs or food.

Representatives from NGOs present agreed unanimously on several points: that exemptions to the economic sanctions against Iraq be made to provide immediate medical and humanitarian relief; that the economic sanctions be lifted as soon as possible so that health and sanitation facilities can be restored to prevent devastating epidemics; that NGOs play an advocacy role urging United Nations and United States decision-makers to participate actively in the rehabilitation of Kuwait and Iraq; and that NGOs work to mobilize funding for this effort.

Sara Ann Friedman

For further information on NGO action in the Persian Gulf, contact American Council for Voluntary International Action, 1815 H St., NW, 11th floor, Washington, D.C. 20006, United States, Tel. (202) 822-8429, or 200 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003, United States, Tel. (212) 777-8210.



Alliance for breast-feeding

NGOs and the United Nations are stepping up the global campaign to promote breast-feeding in response to the aggressive marketing campaigns that induce mothers to use commercial breast-milk substitutes.

Gathering at the Innocenti Centre in Florence, Italy, high-level United Nations and government policy-makers launched a global campaign for the promotion of breast-feeding, declaring that all women should be empowered to practice breast-feeding, and all infants should be fed exclusively on breast milk from birth to four-six months of age. The so-called Innocenti Declaration also called on governments to appoint national breast-feeding co-ordinators, to comply with the WHO Code on breast-feeding, and to support legislation to protect the breast-feeding rights of working women.

In 1981, WHO and UNICEF adopted an International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, which set minimum standards to protect and promote breast-feeding.

UNICEF executive director James Grant, explaining the need for the stepped up campaign, said that although 90 countries have taken some action on the WHO Code, only seven have fully adopted it and the

great majority have done nothing. Meanwhile, milk-substitute manufacturers have proceeded to build markets with newer, more manipulative methods, particularly through targeting the health care profession and flooding hospitals and clinics with free samples.

Grant called for a "massive shift to a breast-feeding culture", a global initiative called the World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action (WABA), designed to re-establish the predominance of breast-feeding. The interim steering committee for this "participatory action-oriented" WABA includes, among others, representatives from La Leche League International, World Council of Churches, International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) and the Interfaith Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR).

"In the 1970s the cause was established, in the 1980s the Code was established," said Pat Young of ICCR. "And in the 1990s compliance will be established."

Anwar Fazal

For more information about the World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action, write to WABA, c/o IOCU, P.O. Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia. Fax +60-4-366506.

For more information about the Innocenti Declaration, write to UNICEF, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States, or to your local UNICEF office.

Pioneers in uncharted territory

Continued from page 3

domestic window. The explosion may have its epicentre in the Third World but its fall-out covers the spectrum of the world's economic, social and political life. In one way or another, we are all affected.

The issue demands a place on the agenda of the entire United Nations system. The UNFPA has already held two international conferences dealing with it, and it is a major concern, too, of other United Nations agencies and entities. But it needs much more. It needs a co-ordinated system-wide approach recognizing that while each city has its own problems and priorities, their joint urban experience today cuts through ideological, national and cultural differences. Indeed, if there is a common denominator in



the world today, it is to be found in the interrelationships that now exist between a city and its people caught up together in a historic and dramatic transition that has still to run its course.

It is already late but if commitment to a better life is ever to be more than a wishful hope and a platitude, now is the time for national govern-

ments and the international community to use the creative and technological capacity they have within their grasp to forge the greatest social transformation in history. The alternative would be a tragedy we cannot begin to contemplate.

The choice cannot be delayed, not even in a world preoccupied by the crisis in the Persian Gulf—ironically, in the very same region that gave rise to the world's first city. Today's urban crisis may not command the attention of a shooting war and its aftermath, but it will be with us for the foreseeable future. ■

Robert L. Schiffer, a former official of the United Nations, has written *The Exploding City*, photographs by Jerry Cooke, foreword by Isaac Asimov (St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, United States).

Place an ad in Development Forum

We are now offering space—at reasonable rates—to advertisers interested in getting their message out to the nearly 125,000 people who read *Development Forum*. Space will be available, on a limited basis, to organizations and companies involved in the fields of social and economic development. The deadline for the next issue is 15 April.

Development Forum's readership covers the spectrum of key United Nations, government and NGO officials, development workers, journalists, students and academics. Some 40 per cent of our readers live in the developing countries, where *Development Forum* has been a primary source of information and education for nearly 20 years.

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Advertising Manager, *Development Forum*, P.O. Box 5850, GCPO, New York, NY 10163-5850, USA Tel: (212) 963-1516 Fax: (212) 963-1381

Antarctica

Southern Exposure: Deciding Antarctica's Future.

Lee A. Kimball.

World Resources Institute Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, United States. \$10.00.

The author explores the features of an international policy-making and management process that has effectively governed and protected 10 per cent of the earth's surface for more than 30 years—despite territorial disputes and long-standing conflicts between conservationists and those who use Antarctica's resources. Released to coincide with the special meeting of the Antarctic Treaty nations to discuss improving environmental protection for the continent, this report recommends approval of a moratorium on all mineral activities in the region.

Awards

Project entries for the World Habitat Awards 1991 are currently being sought in both developed and developing countries which offer sustainable futures to residents, provide practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems, and can be replicated in many different countries.

A panel of international assessors, including Arcot Ramachandran, executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, rector of the United Nations University, will judge the projects.

The two awards, valued at £10,000, will be presented on World Habitat Day, 7 October.

The deadline for preliminary submissions is 31 July 1991.

To submit projects or for more information, write to Diane Discon, Research Officer, Building and Social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire LE6 4EU, United Kingdom. Tel. (0530) 510444; Fax (0530) 510332.

Calendar

6-9 May 1991

Twentieth World Congress of the Society for International Development (SID), Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Every three years members of SID—people working for governments, business, international organizations, NGOs, universities—meet with people in all sectors and from all over the world concerned with international development. The congress serves to promote international dialogue, understanding and co-operation for social and economic development and is recognized as one of the most important forums for the exchange of ideas, experience and information.

Speakers will include Prince Claus of the Netherlands; Jacques Delors, president of the European Community; Robert McNamara, former United States secretary of defense and president of the World Bank; Mohadan Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan; Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank; and Jan Pronk, minister of development co-operation of the Netherlands. There will be more than 35 panels and seminars on different subjects.

For more information, write to SID-World Congress 1991, c/o OLT/CON-GREX, Keizersgracht 782, 1017 EC Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

31 May - 2 June 1991

Retreat to the Future, Hartford, Connecticut, United States.

Sponsored by the American Forum for Global Education, this working conference on profes-

sional priorities for global and international education will try to answer the questions: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going? Issues will include (but are not limited to) the relationship between global education and multicultural education; women's issues in global education; foreign language and communication; teaching about a changing Europe; bringing a global perspective to elementary and secondary education; and internationalizing the undergraduate disciplines and professional schools.

For more particulars, write to the American Forum, 45 John Street, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10038, United States.

20-24 November 1991

Learning Together/Working Together: A South-North Dialogue, Washington, DC., United States.

The Association for Women in Development (AWID) is sponsoring this international forum "to mobilize the energies of varied voices to create effective strategies of change on concerns shared by women around the world", emphasizing the flow of experience from the developing to the industrialized world, from South to North.

It is seeking presentations on seven "cluster" issues: work, education, health, family, political participation, institutional development, and environment. Proposals must be received by 20 April 1991.

Catalogues

Publications of the American Forum for Global Education, 1990-1991.

45 John Street, Suite 1200, New York, NY 10038, United States.

Includes books, occasional papers, directories, curriculum materials, role play simulations, newsletters and educational toys.

Oxford Publications Catalogue 1990/1991.

This is a listing of books and other printed material on various social and economic issues as they relate to Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Titles include *We Cry for Our Land: Farm Workers in South Africa*; *Sudan: The Roots of Famine*; *The Caribbean: Making Our Own Choices*; *Central America: Options for the Poor*, and *For Richer, for Poorer: Western Connections with World Hunger*. A major new initiative from Oxford Publications is the new journal *Development in Practice*, which aims to stimulate debate about overseas development from the perspective of NGOs. Primarily intended to reflect the original

research and experience of NGOs in development and relief work, it will also act as a forum for the exchange of information about new resources.

To order, write to Oxford Publications, P.O. Box 120, Oxford OX2 7FA, United Kingdom.

Environment

In Search of Environmental Excellence: Moving Beyond Blame.

Bruce Piasecki and Peter Asmus. Simon and Schuster/Touchstone, Simon and Schuster Building, Rockefeller Center, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, United States.

Piasecki and Asmus offer a timely and concise resource proposing practical solutions to today's most pressing environmental concerns. Drawing on the latest reports and surveys and on the opinions of officials, policy makers, activists, industry leaders and ordinary citizens, they address issues such as global warming, deforestation, the nuclear industry, toxic dumping, alternative energy sources and agricultural abuse.

The authors' fundamental message is one that needs to be heard far and wide, over and over again: Economic vitality need not, and should not, be pursued at the expense of environmental quality. Destroying the quality of our air, water, soils, forests and other natural resources will exact huge costs sooner or later.

IN SEARCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

MOVING BEYOND BLAME



Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions.

Butterworth-Heinemann, Ltd., P.O. Box 63, Westbury House, Bury Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5BH, United Kingdom. £93 (United Kingdom and Europe), £102 (elsewhere).

This new quarterly journal, published in co-operation with the United Nations University (UNU), provides information about alternative policies and programmes that can be undertaken at global, sub-global, national or local levels emphasizing human contributions to worldwide environmental changes. It addresses the human ecological and public policy dimensions of the environmental processes which are threatening the sustainability of life on earth, including deforestation, desertification, soil degradation, species extinction, sea level rise, nuclear winter, destruction of the ozone layer, etc.

Additionally, there will be a regular presentation of news of the UNU's current research, publications and forthcoming projects of the International Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme, including the UNU contributions and related activities.

Rainforests

Rainforest Politics: Ecological Destruction in South-East Asia.

Philip Hurst, Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, United Kingdom. £32.95/\$55.00 (hbk), £10.95/\$17.50 (pbk).

The tropical rainforests of South-East Asia are being destroyed at the rate of 25,000 sq km a year. This is just one of the alarming findings presented in this book. While public attention has been focused on the wholesale destruction of the rainforests in the Amazon, little has been written about South-East Asia which contains the world's second largest area of rainforest.

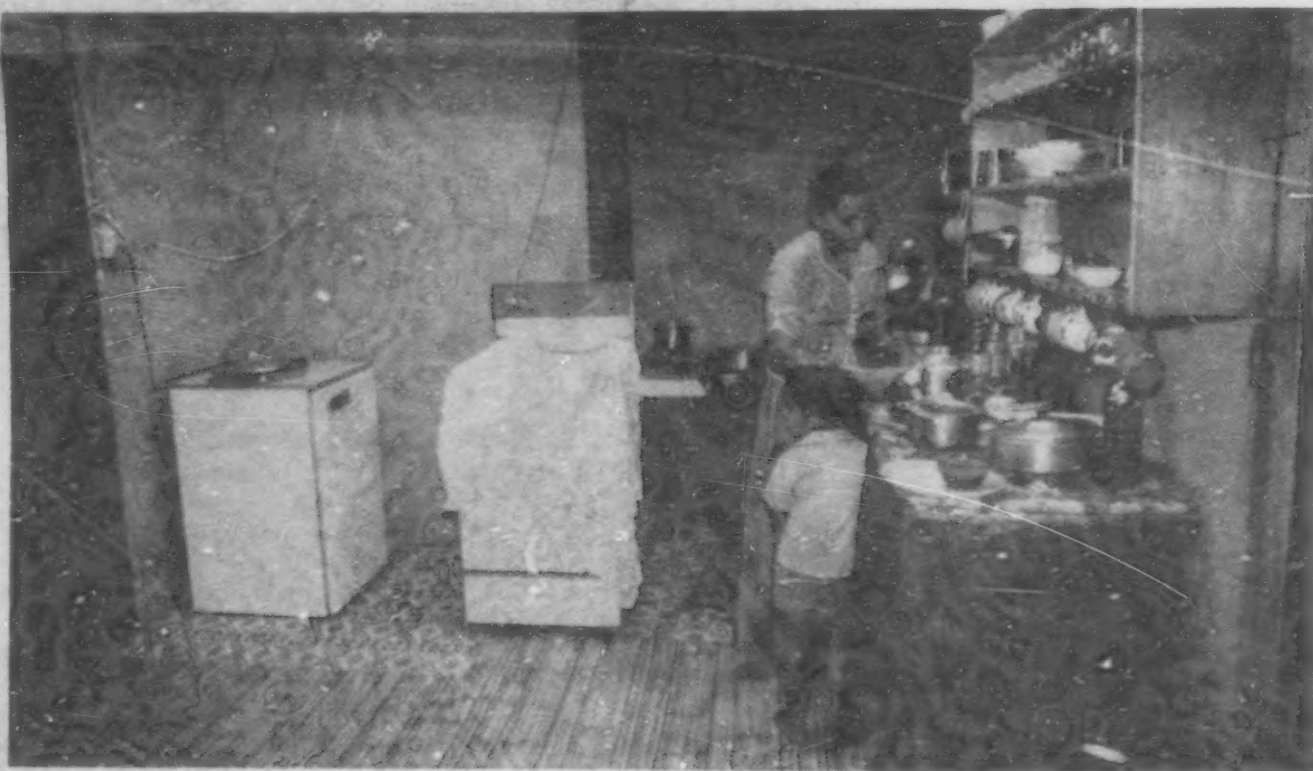
The book details the mismanagement and destruction of the forests in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand. It describes why they are being destroyed and what forces are behind that destruction. The author details the historical, political and economic factors as seen by those living in the area.

The book contains a wealth of hard information, of interest to both the general reader and those undertaking detailed research. It argues why it is of vital importance to save the rainforests and proposes a range of practical policies to achieve this end.

Education

CWDE Software (Centre for World Development Education) has released an enhanced version of *Sand Harvest*, the computer-based role play

A family resemblance



In the Republic of Fiji, Prabhasmi Devi, 27, and her son, Pratish, prepare a meal for the extended family. For generations the family has worked in nearby sugar plantations introduced from India by British colonizers.

Hélène Tremblay's plan was certainly ambitious: To join in the life of an average family for a few days in 160 countries, and to share this experience by publishing her findings. Two volumes of *Families of the World: Family Life at the Close of the 20th Century* have already been published—*The Americas and the Caribbean*, and *East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 9 Union Square, New York, NY 10003, United States). Still to come are Europe, Africa, and West Asia and the Middle East.

The idea is both simple and original: to discover the world through the family because, the author explains, "family life is the one social experience common to all humankind." She was confronted with the problems of financing (various United Nations agencies and the European Community, among others, are sponsoring the project), choice of families (working with detailed statistical profiles in search of the representative family from each country), and extensive travel. For the first two volumes, the author visited 70 countries over six years.

Tremblay spent three or four days with each family. She brought back group photos,

accounts of the thousand mundane gestures made every day, a chronicle of daily life at the end of the twentieth century, and a global vision of the aspirations and problems of all humankind. "We have so many things in common," she says. "Everywhere, education is a priority, everywhere, grandmothers resist change, everywhere, success is really a question of personality since the lazy ones don't get very far no matter where they are." But cultural differences and the enormous gulf of styles and standards of living also figure in the study.

These two volumes are richly detailed and simply presented: 8 to 10 pages per family, illustrated with photos and accompanied by statistics about the country, precisely describing a typical day in each selected family.

The pedagogical value of these works has not escaped the attention of educators: The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), one of the project's sponsors, has perfected a guide as a teaching aid to encourage young people to know the world's cultures, their differences, and to respect them. To obtain the guide, contact CIDA, 200 Promenade du Portage, Hull, Québec, K1A 0G4, Canada.

Resources

simulation of desertification in the Sahel, based on life in Mali. It is suitable for users from age 11 upwards. Playing nomad, government officer or villager, the student is able to understand, by experiencing different perspectives, the real issues and problems of the other groups.

Sand Harvest comes with fully comprehensive documentation—the organizer's manual, and a handbook each for the nomads, government officer and villagers.

It is available in versions for BBC, Nimbus PC-186 and PC-286, IBM PS/2 model 50 and other computers. Price is £115.

For further details, write to Elizabeth Segall, CWDE Software, Regent's College, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, United Kingdom.

Education

See Me, Share My World: Understanding the Third World through Children's Art.

Plan International USA, 155 Plan Way, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886, United States. The complete unit is \$59.00. Individual components may be purchased separately.

This is a two-week multicultural, multidisciplinary teaching unit which introduces elementary students to the daily life of their peers in developing countries. The components include a comprehensive teacher handbook covering the themes of global kinship, food, education, health, work, festivals and games, a set of eight laminated pieces of colourful student artwork done by children in Third World countries, each with a map and background information; a set of laminated black and white photographs depicting life in the Third World with related data; 48 reproducible student activity sheets covering a broad range of topics and skills; and a 30-minute training video with live footage of the programme in use in the classroom, as well as interviews of students and teachers who have participated in the programme.

Tools for Community Participation: A Manual for Training Trainers in Participatory Techniques.

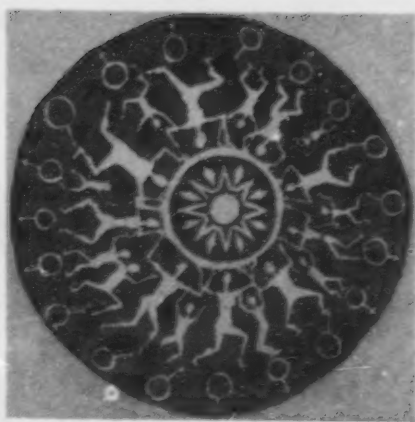
Lyra Srinivasan. Available as a manual and video set, in English and French, or as a manual alone, in English. Southern agencies are entitled to a discount.

How to improve participation and gain genuine commitment is a constant challenge for development practitioners and their trainers. This highly illustrative work, which comes with a companion video, describes an approach to community participation that has worked with thousands of trainers across disciplines. The approach, called "SARAR", has been applied globally by PROWESS/UNDP (Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation) in workshops to encourage women's participation in water and sanitation projects. The philosophy and techniques, however, are adaptable to almost any training situation where changes in people's attitudes and actions are as important as gains in information.

Thirty-nine participatory training activities are described in specific detail and fully illustrated with photographs, drawings, graphics and field examples. The accompanying video brings the concept alive, showing how the process unfolds and exercises build within an actual field workshop.

The package was produced by PROWESS/UNDP and is distributed by PACT (Private Agencies Collaborating Together) Media Services.

For more information and prices, write to PACT Media Services, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, United States.



Sand Harvest.

CWDE Software (Centre for World Development Education) has released an enhanced version of *Sand Harvest*, the computer-based role play simulation of desertification in the Sahel, based on life in Mali. It is suitable for users from age 11 upwards. Playing nomad, government officer or villager, the student is able to understand, by experiencing different perspectives, the real issues and problems of the other groups.

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It is available in versions for BBC, Nimbus PC-186 and PC-286, IBM PS/2 model 50 and other computers. Price is £115.

Also available from CWDE Software are the following computer programmes:

What Do We Eat? is a data file to help children analyse their food intake and compare it with that of a different country. For users aged 8 to 13.

The Development Database contains social and economic statistics on 125 countries. (Age 8 and up).

The Water Game is a simulation in which the problems of self-sufficiency in water supplies are dealt with in a light-hearted but effective manner. (Ages 8 to 13).

For further details, write to Elizabeth Segall, CWDE Software, Regent's College, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS, United Kingdom.

Film/Video

Africa on Film and Videotape: A Guide to Audio-Visual Resources Available in Canada.

Africa on Film and Videotape, IDERA Films, 2524 Cypress St., Vancouver, BC V6J 3N2, Canada. Available in English and French. \$13.00.

In the interest of increasing public awareness of audio-visual resources on Africa, IDERA Films (International Development Education Resources Association) and Carrefour International have published this first-of-its-kind reference guide of films and videotapes, documentaries (from 1980-1989, with a few older classics) and dramatic narratives, by both African and non-African directors, which are available for rental and/or sale from commercial and educational distributors, NGOs and other sources throughout Canada. There are over 300 titles in the film/video library, covering a broad spectrum of international issues and themes.

IDERA also maintains a print resource library of over 100 journals on international concerns from around the world, publishes a bimonthly *Calendar of Events* on international themes and the *IDERA Clipping Issues*, containing up-to-date news and analysis of global political, economic and social developments.

Terra pra Viver (A Land for Survival).

This Brazilian film tells the story of a discontented Sao Paulo bus driver who dreams of a better

life in the faraway village of Goias, only to discover how hard life can be for a peasant with no land. Joining a group of farmers fighting for their rights, he helps them recover the land from which they had been expelled, builds a house and sows a field. But his crop is not growing as well as the others'.

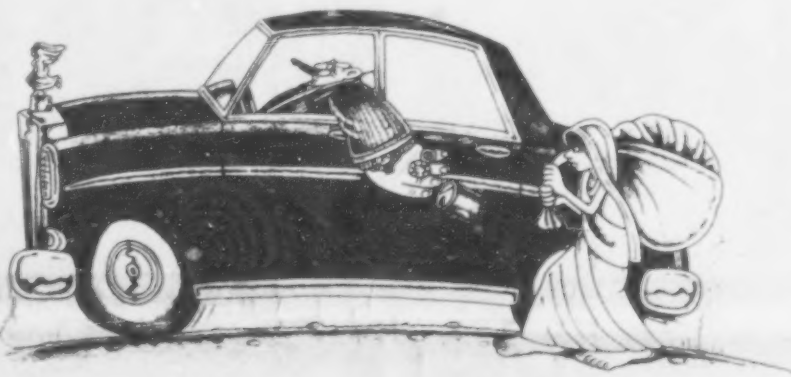
Here the film shows the protagonist and other farmers that a good knowledge of the soil is essential to improve crop yields.

The film can be used as an introduction to conferences, discussions about agricultural reforms or the future of peasant farming, the right to use lands and the fight to have that right respected.

An accompanying brochure by Alain Rueilan, *Discovering the Soil*, gives more details about points mentioned in the film.

Terra pra Viver (A Land for Survival), a Brazilian film by Elizeu Ewald, Silvia Nicola and Alain Rueilan, directed by Elizeu Ewald. Available in 35 mm (in Brazil), 16 mm and VHS videocassettes, NTSC, PAL and SECAM, in Portuguese; subtitled versions in English and French. Single copy \$70; multiple copies \$60 and \$50. The brochure is available in Portuguese, English and French. Single copy \$6; multiples \$5 and \$4.

To order, please write to CNEARC, BP 5098, 34033 Montpellier Cedex 01, France.



Journalism

Training Programme for Journalists from Developing Countries.

The eleventh annual United Nations training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries will take place in New York in September. Sixteen junior professional journalists are expected to take part.

They will receive in-house training and participate in the work of the General Assembly. They will also serve as temporary United Nations correspondents and cover meetings and activities on behalf of their home media organizations.

The programme was established by the General Assembly in 1981. So far, more than 100 broadcasters and journalists have taken part.

Participants will be chosen through United Nations information centres or, where none exists, through the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme.

Population

Population Reports.

Population Information Program, Center for Communication Programs, Johns Hopkins University, 527 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, United States.

Series A, No 8 (May 1990) is a guide on counselling about oral contraceptives. It can help a woman learn about the pill, decide if the pill is the right method for her, start and continue using the pill correctly, and resolve any problems or questions. Chapters include helping clients

make informed choices; what about AIDS?; warning signs; a special pill for breast-feeding women; and checklists.

Pollution

Driving Forces: Motor Vehicle Trends and their Implications for Global Warming, Energy Strategies and Transportation Planning.

James J. MacKenzie and Michael P. Walsh. *World Resources Institute Publications*, PO. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211, United States. \$12.50 plus \$3 for postage and handling.

While the growth rate of motor vehicle use in highly industrialized countries has slowed, population growth and increased urbanization and industrialization are accelerating the use of motor vehicles elsewhere. *Driving Forces* documents how increasing vehicular carbon dioxide emissions are contributing to global climate change and presents projects for the future based on the growth of motor vehicle use worldwide. The report concludes with recommendations for new air pollution emissions standards, fuel efficiency improvements and overall

industry in which students take on different roles (company, government, farmer) and discuss the costs and benefits to each.

Finally, there is role-playing to bring out different views about tobacco taxation using the United Kingdom as an example.

Women

Women and World Development Series.

Zed Books and the UN/NGO Group of Women and Development are launching this new series of seven books, the outcome of more than a decade of research on world development issues and their impact on women. The series will make the work of this unique forum of United Nations agencies and



NGOs available to everyone interested in national and international questions of social and economic justice, and in the improvement of development programmes and policies.

Titles include: *Women and the World Economic Crisis*, *Women and Violence*, *Women and the Environment*, *Refugee Women*, *Women and Health*, *Women and Disability*, and *Women and Literacy*.

Each volume is fully illustrated and contains a resource guide and a separate section which gives guidance for the book's use in workshops and seminars. They suggest schedules and discussion topics, and propose a development education and action programme.

Women and World Development Series. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, United Kingdom. Single copy £29.95/\$49.95 (hbk), £9.95/\$15.95 (pbk), plus £1.25/\$2 postage and handling. All seven books £60/\$100 (pbk) post free.

Aid

Voluntary Aid for Development: The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations.

This is a survey on the non-governmental organization movement—its history, development and impact. Material on local self-help organizations, although drawn largely from the African experience, could apply equally well elsewhere as could the discussion of other issues such as institution-building, self-evaluation in local organizations, appropriate technology, and fostering microenterprises in the informal sector.

To order the book or to request a catalogue, write to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Publications Service, Sales and Distribution Division, 2 rue Andre-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France.

Smoking

Power and Decision-making: Tobacco

Leeds Development Education Centre, Dispatch Unit, 153 Cardigan Road, Leeds LS6 1LJ, United Kingdom.

A new resource for teachers and youth workers who are keen to involve young people in discussions about smoking and the tobacco industry. The book contains teacher's notes and copyright-free pupil activities.

The book begins with activities to enable students to explore their own spending patterns in general, then looks at young people's spending on tobacco and the influence of advertising.

This is followed by a case study of the Brazilian tobacco



The forces and pressures of economic life can pull nations together or they can drive them apart. One of the great challenges of the new era is to realize the possibilities of genuine cooperation to the maximum extent that the world's resources and capacities will permit. Lasting peace will necessarily require an improvement in the human condition. This, in turn, can only be achieved through productive patterns of interaction among all members of the international community. For this a renewed commitment and more focused efforts are required to stimulate and achieve economic development and social progress, particularly in the developing countries.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
United Nations
Secretary-General

development forum

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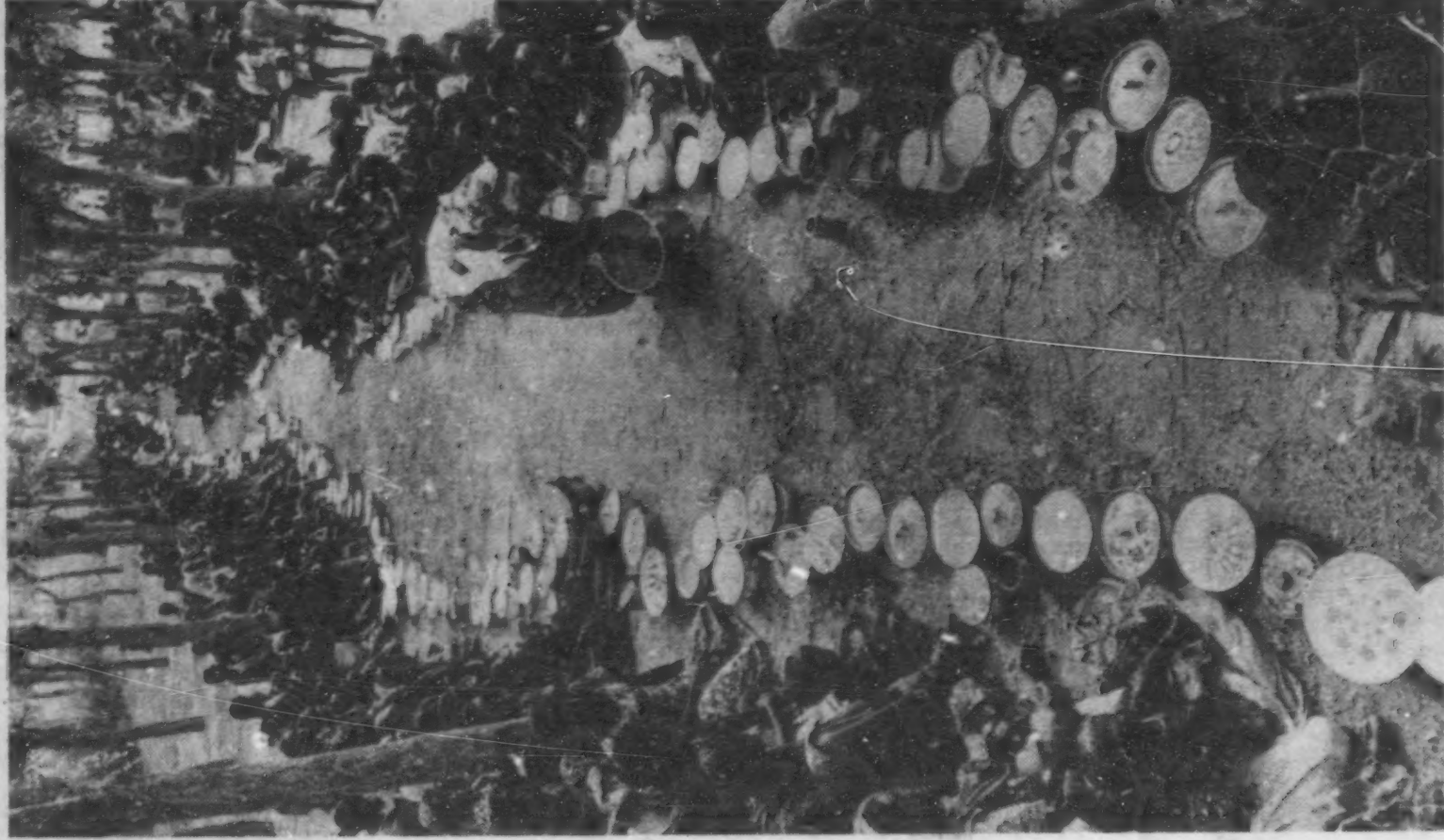
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Coping with disaster

Fatalism is out, preparedness and prevention are in. The United Nations is undertaking a campaign to co-ordinate international efforts to confront and, when possible, prevent massive losses caused by natural and man-made disasters.

[See pages 12-13]



Africa continues to be plagued by catastrophic famines—all of which can be prevented.

In this issue:

Earth Summit
sets agenda

By Maurice S. Strong

Eastern
European
workers hit hard

By Marlene Nadle

Poor vs. poor,
war after war

By John Kenneth Galbraith